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The Journal Register

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COMMUNITY

Return To Normalcy

Town has a change of heart, plans a Memorial Day parade

By Michel Harrison
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PALMER — What pandemic? For the first time in two years, Palmer will observe Memorial Day with a parade. It will begin forming at 10:30 a.m. on Lawrence Street with the procession taking off at 10:45 a.m., heading down Thorndike Street to Converse Street and the old middle school, where the parade will wrap up at around 11 a.m.

A memorial service for the country's war dead will follow.

Like all other events, last year's parade was quashed by quarantine and other public safety protocols. It appeared Palmer would forgo the parade for another year, but Gov. Baker started rolling back some restrictions in the past few weeks. In his latest announcement, Baker said the Commonwealth will fully open at the end of the month.

Palmer Town Council members discussed it at a meeting last week and decided there was no reason to cancel the parade again, even though it meant a tight window to get it organized.

"Bob had called me and he got the chief's permission that he could get the officers for the parade and then he started working with the Legion and AmVets and others," Council President Lorinda Baker said, referring to Councilman Robert Lavoie.

"We know it's late to get participation from all the groups, but we have a contact with a classic car and contacts with classic car groups to get other cars in the parade," Baker said.

Lavoie is also reaching out to motorcycle groups that participate in patriotic events.

The only thing missing is a marching band because Palmer High's band has not been able to

MEMORIAL DAY | page 2



Seniors Olivia Sloat, Tori Edwards, and Marissa Dinelle stopped at PHS after the parade to say thank you for the tribute to their "Final Chapter" of high school Saturday.

Celebrating The Class Of '21

Community turns out to cheer on Palmer High's seniors

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Before receiving their diplomas and putting a final exclamation point on their challenging senior year, the Palmer High Class of 2021 were the stars of a parade in their honor.

Seniors such as Abigail Rathbone and Joseph Black said they are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate not just four years of high school, but a challenging year that began when they were juniors.

"It's very nice they put this

on for us, since we're not having a lot of events, because of COVID," Black said. "It's nice to have something and it's a good day, with nice weather." Rathbone said since they did not get a senior skip day or a senior prank, "it's nice to have one last thing to do together."

The parade started in the parking lot of Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers and ended in the parking lot of Palmer High, where students were greeted by staff members who distributed caps and gowns. The students then traveled on to the parents who provided each of them with a 5' x 2' personalized banner, a personalized lawn sign and more.

A personalized wall banner

CELEBRATION | page 7



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Palmer High senior Abigail Rathbone excitedly shows off her car decorated for the parade celebrating the Class of 2021.

HOLLAND

Discovering Nature

Town close to acquiring over 150 acres for outdoor recreation and more

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

HOLLAND — It looks like there's going to be a whole lot of new ways to enjoy the great outdoors in this town before long.

After some unforeseen delays, a plan adopted by town meeting two years ago to acquire more than 170 acres of woods appears back in motion. The property, along Stafford Road just behind Robert's Auto Clinic and Food Mart, is in the process of transferring title to the Town of Holland in partnership with Opacum Land Trust, which would hold a conservation easement on 150 acres.

Town leaders envision turning the woods into a place where residents and visitors can hike, cross-country ski, hunt, and fish in the pristine freshwater brook that runs through the center of the property. The facility could be used as an outdoor classroom where students at the nearby elementary school can learn about nature.

And that's not all.

According to an information sheet from the land trust, 17 acres could be used by Holland to "fulfill many town needs such as senior housing, playing fields, a new library," and more. Fueling the project, discussed at a recent Holland Open Space and Trails Committee meeting, is \$202,383 from a Massachusetts Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity grant — the town's first — and an additional \$50,000 commitment from the state.

Pandemic-related delays held the project up for the past year because the title transfers couldn't be completed, Dick Haller, who chairs the committee, said.

"With COVID, the land court had to shut down in March (of 2020) and

HOLLAND | page 2

ELECTIONS

Q&A with Monson Select Board Candidates

MONSON — The annual town election is June 8. Among the contested races are three candidates running for Select Board. We asked them to respond to a few questions by email and here's how the candidates responded:

Jessica L. Allen

Age: 43
Occupation: Training Consultant
Education: B.A. Communications, Quinnipiac University
Prior public offices held: N/A

Q: What do you consider to be the top three most important issues facing Monson and what would you like to do to address them, if given the opportunity?

Allen: 1. Make downtown Monson a place to go.
2. Revitalization of Veteran's



Field to serve all our residents — including the creation of a walking path, a band shell for music and theatre events, and expansion of the existing playground area.

3. Increased support for small and local business — create a connection and sense of community among existing business owners, as well as developing effective strategy for attracting new small businesses.

4. Town offices doing business with an enhanced focus on the customer-improved service and communication with townspeople, leveraging technology, efficiency, and transparency.

Q: You mentioned in the past

ALLEN | page 6

Karen Nothe-Valley

Age: 52
Occupation: Advanced Regulatory Consultant, Retirement Services
Education: MBA, UMASS Isenberg School of Business (2016); B.A. in Legal Studies in the Business Environment, University of Massachusetts (2006); A.A. in Advanced Paralegal Studies, Elms College (2003).
Prior public offices held: N/A

Q: What do you consider to be the top three most important issues facing Monson and what would you like to do to address them, if given the opportunity?



Nothe-Valley: These are some of the topics that I'd like to work on with the Select Board and the community:

1. Community development and modernization. Residents tell me they want community development, business pop-ups, beautification projects or interesting festivals. I will help drive a culture of openness to new ideas and allow room for growth, improvement and modernization. Let's improve the town website and keep it regularly updated. Monson is eligible for federal direct municipal aid funds in 2021 and 2022 for use through 2024 to help fund Covid-related

NOTHE-VALLEY | page 6

Patricia Oney

Age: 64
Occupation: Attorney, now retired
Education: B.A. economics — Rutgers College J.D. — Western New England School of Law
Prior public offices held: ZBA appointment effective 3/36/84-6/30/87, but resigned in 4/85 to take Town Counsel appointment. Town Counsel appointment 4/25/1985 and renewed yearly through 1993; resigned in 1993 due to full-time position as Asst Gen Counsel with MA Dept of Developmental Services
Board of Assessors — elected 3/95 to fill one year term; elected 1996, 1999, and 2002 for 3-year terms until 2005



Monson Housing Authority — appointed 2014 by Governor Baker to be his appointee to the MHA and appointment continues currently
School Committee — elected 2016-2019

Q: What do you consider to be the top three most important issues facing Monson and what would you like to do to address them, if given the opportunity?

Oney: One major concern is making sure that there is open and effective communication between town officials, residents, and business owners. We need to encourage sharing ideas

ONEY | page 6



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Two vie for fire chief; Annual meeting May 25

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BONDSDVILLE – During the Bondsville Fire and Water District's annual meeting on May 25, there will also be an election for first engineer and the winner will also assume the role of fire chief.

The two candidates are current Fire Chief John Daniels and Assistant Fire Chief Paul Sigovitch, who both bring many years of experience in firefighting. Here are their responses to our questionnaire:



Paul Sigovitch

Age: 51

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Safety at Keene State College
Occupation: Bondsville Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief

Q: Why are you running for this open position?

Sigovitch: It is in the interest of progressiveness and looking to further my ability to lead the fire department. I've been on the fire department for over 20 years and I believe I've earned the respect of our members, mutual partners and others in the community to lead the department.

Q: What skills do you believe qualify you for this position?

Sigovitch: My grandfather, father and brother were all involved in fire service as volunteers and that was my first opportunity to join as a fire explorer in Connecticut. Over the years I graduated from college with a degree in public safety and through my time on the department, studying as a private and moving up to the different positions, you gain not just the respect of your colleagues. When your in the field, leading your group and troop, you're making the process work in the interest of public work.

Q: What is something you would like to improve at the fire department?

Sigovitch: I have a lot of relationships with different people and the other mutual depart-

ments in our area that I would love to see continue, where we're not just supporting Palmer and the villages here, but other communities in Western Massachusetts.



John Daniels

Age: 57

Education: High School Diploma
Occupation: Bondsville Fire Department's Fire Chief

Q: Why are you running for this open position?

Daniels: For the safety of the public and I think I have been doing a good job for the past four years as the fire chief.

Q: What skills do you believe qualify you for this position?

Daniels: I have 40 years of experience in this fire department. I have learned manage-

ment skills, had the opportunity to serve under various chiefs. I have been in many situations with structure fires that had a good outcome. I have helped many residents in Bondsville over the years. When I first became fire chief, we did a walk-through with a warehouse in Bondsville to make sure to get the alarm systems up and running, other systems were operational and more.

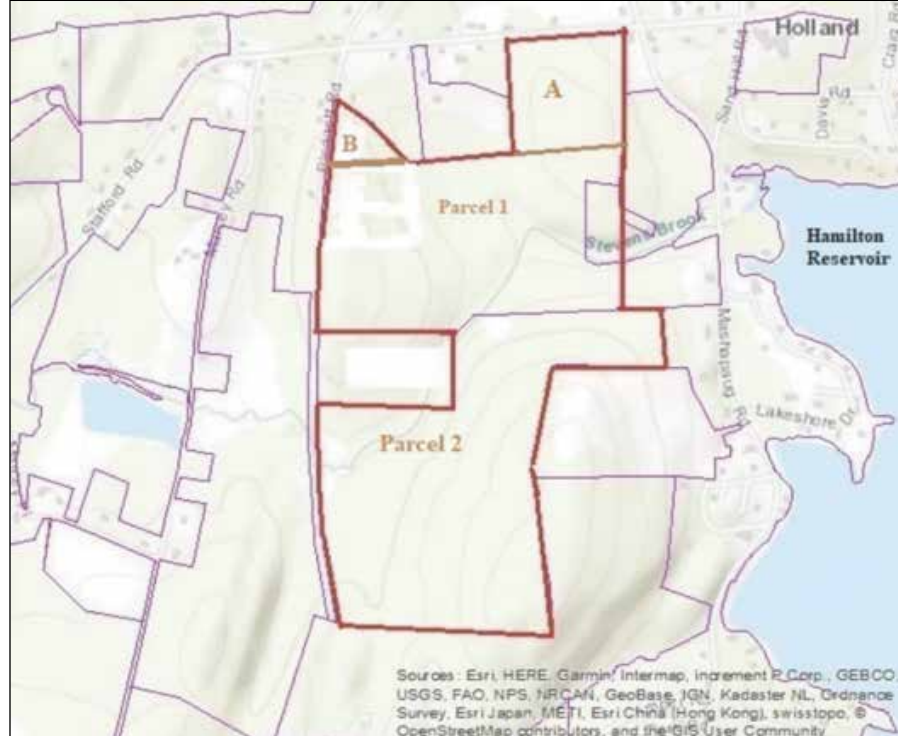
Q: What is something you would like to improve at the fire department?

Daniels: We have very good crew members. I also think the operations are running pretty good. Honestly, I do not think I would change anything, we have Class A apparatus and new equipment. I would not change anything, other than hiring more personnel.

The annual meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. May 25, will take place at the Bondsville Fire Station, located at 3174 Main St, Bondsville. All eligible Bondsville residents are welcome to attend. Face masks are required and social distancing will be expected. For more information, call 413-283-9036.



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison
These woods, which include Stevens Brook, described as a "freshwater fishery," could soon provide recreation and educational opportunities in Holland.



Courtesy photo

This map shows Parcels 1 and 2 – 150 acres of land to be purchased and become permanent open space owned by the Town of Holland with a conservation easement held by Opacum Land Trust – and Parcels A and B, 23 acres to be owned out-right by the Town of Holland, including all 910 feet of frontage on Stafford Road.

HOLLAND | from page 1

when they reopened, it was a virtual setup and they had a huge backlog which they do anyway," Haller said. "My understanding is now, all the steps have been completed except one."

The plans are all set to move forward when the town takes ownership.

"As soon as we have the closing, the highway department has agreed to provide labor and equipment to clear areas," Haller said.

"We already have a kiosk to install. But right now, until the closing, we just have to wait. But we are really excited about it."

The trailhead would be created on Blodgett road, Haller said. If all goes according to plan, it will be a gateway not just to nature, but to local history.

"There are some old roads and mill sites along the brook – which is just a beautiful stream – and there is evidence of a Native American presence, a stopping point, along the way. We're really eager to learn more about the history of those sites," Haller said.

The work of creating the trails will include repairing one bridge and creating

another and Haller said the town might apply for a Massachusetts trails grant to help pay for it.

"As soon as we have title to the property, we'll have some workdays," Haller said, perhaps by fall.

A water resource

The land trust's information sheet conjures the image of an idyllic nature sanctuary that could have the added benefit of becoming a revenue stream for the town.

"Overlooking the center of town there are 170 acres of land that has the potential to provide a number of great opportunities for Holland," it says.

"Stevens Brook, a cold-water fishery and the second-largest source of freshwater to Hamilton Reservoir, runs through the center of the property. Protecting this land ensures water quality and quantity for the lake. The Stephens Brook Community Forest could be used by the school, a five-minute walk away, for nature-based education. It could provide an example of long-term, sustainable forest management with timber harvests occasionally providing revenue for the maintenance of the property and for the Town."

Brimfield Memorial Day services, parade to be held May 30

The Town of Brimfield will hold its annual Memorial Day services at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 30, on the Town Common.

The committee extends a special invitation to all area veterans, enlisted service members and reservist to join us so that we may recognize and honor them for their sacrifice and service.

Ceremonies will begin with the drum roll and the veterans call to order as they process in. The ceremony will feature the remembrance of current and former town residents who have passed in the last year with a roll call followed by the ringing of the historic Town Hall bell.

Frannie Watson will sing the national anthem, and sixth-grade students Colin Marquis and Braeden Campbell will read the Gettysburg Address and a poem. Starr Normandin will have the honors of raising the flag later at the cemetery. Brimfield's history buff Mike DeFalco will speak, state Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Todd Smola will share brief remarks.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the parade will immediately form on North Main Street. The parade will follow the procession of flags. Veterans and military personnel will march, and there will be a wagon for veterans

and others who want to join the parade but are unable to walk the route, provided by Village Green Campgrounds.

The Brimfield Fire and Police department will participate as well as the local Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops 7 and Girl Scouts who have helped prepare for the day with the planting of flowers and flags at the soldiers graves. Per custom, all are encouraged to fall in behind the regiments and join in the parade. Children are invited to patriotically decorate their bikes and doll carriages.

The parade route stops at the cemetery and two war monuments in town with a brief ceremony at each that includes an invocation, a ceremonial gun salute honoring the deceased veterans, laying of wreaths, raising the flag and the playing of Taps. Also, at the cemetery red carnations will be placed on veterans graves.

Following the parade, all who marched are rewarded with Hoodsie ice cream cups. Everyone is invited to join this day of remembrance in honor of those who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

Everyone is asked to observe any COVID-19 pandemic guidelines in effect on May 30 in accordance with Gov. Baker's orders.

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Corrections

In a May 14 story about Monson's annual town meeting, Selectman Ed Harrison was incorrectly referred to as town moderator. The town moderator is Peter Matrow. Quotes attributed to Harrison should have been attributed to Matrow.

Also in that story, resident Robert Kaddy's name was not spelled correctly. To clarify a description of a heated

exchange he had with Matrow, the exchange began when Kaddy asked, "You paying attention, Mr. moderator?" The story's description of the beginning of the exchange did not quote Kaddy using those exact words.

Accuracy is our No. 1 priority. If you spot an error, please email mharri-son@turley.com.

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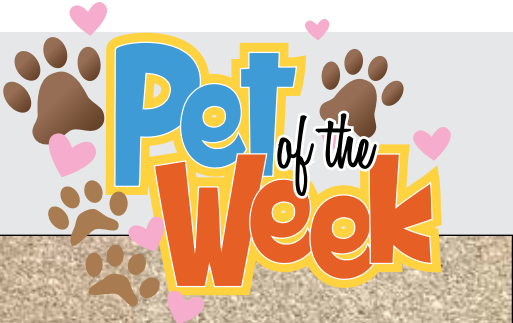
The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



TOMAS

This well-loved Kitty named Tomas, 3, was caught basking in the spring sun at his home in Waterloo, Iowa. His owners Jeremy and Kate Pereira, are former residents of Palmer.

Which animals make your life special? We feature your pets every week here and on Facebook. All animals welcome! Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

MEMORIAL DAY | from page 1

practice and perform during the pandemic.

Judging by social media posts and talk on the street, residents seem primed for a parade – band or no band. That certainly includes Councilman Philip Hebert.

“Quite frankly, I think we should have done it last year as well,” he said.

“This will be the first town-wide event since early 2020,” Lavoie said.

“Come one, come all!”

Anyone who wants to walk or ride in the parade should show up at the formation point at 10:30 a.m.

Lavoie said groups representing Palmer High and Old Mill Pond Elementary schools, Scouting, the fire departments, and more will be part of the parade. Noah Lis will provide music.

Masks are no longer required outdoors for those who have been vaccinated, according to new CDC guidelines, but unvaccinated people are still expected to wear them. Social distancing is still part of the guidelines for anyone unvaccinated, even outdoors.

For more, go to the Palmer Friends and Neighbors Facebook page.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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On The Big Stage

*Resident getting ready to
judge her 4th Westminster
show*

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

MONSON — For a lot of dog lovers, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is what Wimbledon and the U.S. open are to tennis fans.

This year, Monson resident Judy A. Harrington will be among the judges at the 145th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in June. Harrington will judge the Working Group during her fourth judging assignment at Westminster.

The dog show will be held Sunday, June 13, in Tarrytown, N.Y.

“It is indeed an honor to be invited as one of the judges who selects the entry that goes on to compete for Best in Show at this most prestigious event,” Harrington said.

“Each breed has a standard that describes the ideal example of that particular breed, very much a blueprint of perfection. When judging, each judge evaluates the exhibit to the specific standard for that breed.”

Harrington said she has been judging since 2000. Prior to that, she was a professional handler of purebred dogs and “presented dogs for their owners at events throughout the country.”

“After retiring from that profession, I have been invited to judge both domestically and internationally,” she said.

Harrington bred and owner-handled Great Danes under the Justamere prefix, according to a press statement.

“The breed that I fell in love with was Great Danes. I was young and living at home and my parents said when you have a place of your own you can have something that big,” Harrington said.



Judy Harrington has judged various breeds and multiple national specialties and Top 20 events as well as many international assignments.

“And that is exactly what I did! I owner handled and bred Great Danes under the Justamere prefix and will always have a deep fondness for that breed, although I no longer breed or own Great Danes.”

Her successful owner-handling led to a career as an all-breed professional handler, the statement continued, and Harrington shares her home with Australian Shepherds co-bred with Leslie Frank under the Propwash prefix.

“A chance meeting at a client’s friend’s home was my introduction to the Australian Shepherd,” Harrington said.

“That was Leslie Frank of Propwash Australian Shepherds. The breed had just been recognized by AKC and I was fortunate to be invited to show Ch Prop-

wash St Elmo’s Fire, who went on to be a multiple Best in Show winner and Best of Breed at Westminster KC as well. I fell in love with this breed and Leslie and I have now co-bred Australian Shepherds for many years now. My home always has an Aussie in it.”

Harrington has judged multiple national specialties and Top 20 events as well as many international assignments. She judges the Sporting and Working groups, many Toy, Hound, and Herding breeds, Junior Showmanship, and Best in Show, according to the statement.

She also has been invited to judge Best of Breed at both the Great Dane and Australian Shepherd National Specialty, Harrington added.

“Dogs are amazing companions



Courtesy photos

Judy A. Harrington

and there are so many venues for owners to enjoy at this time,” Harrington said, explaining venues include: Obedience, Conformation, Dock Diving, Rally, Field, Trick Dog, and many more.

“It is a way for the entire family to be involved if they enjoy working with their dog.”

Harrington said the show is usually held at Madison Square Garden in February, but this year, it is at Lyndhurst Estate on the Hudson River and will be held in June due to the restrictions that have been put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is an honor to be selected for any part of the Westminster show and to be invited to judge a Group is truly special,” she said.

“There are few places to compare with the level of quality that you will see in all of the Groups. Top dogs from this country and many others compete at WKC.”

Virtual optimism walk to raise funds to fight Parkinson’s Disease

BOSTON – The American Parkinson’s Disease Association, Massachusetts Chapter, is hosting the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk on Saturday, May 22. One of three virtual Optimism Walks happening on the same day, the Massachusetts Walk is part of a nationwide series of Optimism Walks that mobilize and inspire people to step up and help put an end to Parkinson’s disease. There are approximately 1 million people living with the disease in the United States, and with more being diagnosed every day, it is more important than ever to raise essential funds and awareness. Each and every virtual participant will help make a difference for those living with the disease today and to push for answers that will ultimately make Parkinson’s Disease a thing of the past.

Participants in the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk will join fel-

low walkers from Optimism Walks taking place in the Northwest region and Virginia. After an inspiring online opening ceremony and celebration, participants in all three virtual events will walk separately, but together in solidarity.. Due to social distancing, participants will be encouraged to walk safely on their own and share photos and comments using #OptimismWalk, so they can still be uplifted and united by a great sense of community and camaraderie.

To learn more and register for the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk, visit <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/community/massachusetts/> or call (800) 651-8466.

For a full list of events and dates, including in-person walks taking place in the fall, visit the Optimism Walk section of the APDA website, at www.apdaparkinson.org.



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

HOLLAND — The town recently started to use grant money for infrastructure projects to create a sidewalk along the outer portion of Hitchcock Field. The grant is also earmarked for “traffic calming” measures on Sturbridge road.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

What is the best time to claim Social Security?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I will be 64 in May of this year, and I'd like to know the best time to claim Social Security. Signed: Anxious to Retire

Dear Anxious: First, please understand that there is no one "best time" to claim your Social Security benefit, because when you should claim depends upon several factors, such as:

- Your current health
- Your life expectancy
- Your immediate financial need
- Whether you are married
- Whether you are still working

When you should claim also depends upon your personal benefit goals. For example, if you wish to maximize your monthly Social Security benefit amount, you can best do that by simply waiting until age 70 to claim. For each full year you delay past your full retirement age (FRA), your Social Security benefit will grow by 8%, up to age 70 when you get the maximum you're entitled to. If you are married and die first, that will also provide your widow with a higher benefit as your survivor if your wife's own benefit is less than yours. But waiting until age 70 to maximize isn't for everyone.

If you are in poor health and don't expect to enjoy at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your age now), then claiming earlier would be prudent. But claiming earlier also means a smaller benefit. Your full retirement age (FRA) is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. Your FRA is 66 ½ and if you wait longer than that you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of .667% for each full month you delay. That means that if you delay until 70, your Social Security benefit will be 28% more than it would be at your FRA. But if you claim before you have reached your FRA, your benefit amount will be permanently reduced by .556% for each full month earlier than your FRA that you claim. If, for example, you claim your Social Security to start at age 64, your benefit will be cut by about 17% from what you'd get by waiting until your FRA to claim. And, if you are married, that smaller benefit is what your widow's survivor benefit would be based upon if you die first.

Anytime Social Security benefits are claimed before you have reached your full retirement age, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you are working, limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits. For 2021, the annual earnings limit is \$18,960, and if that is exceeded, they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings test applies until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. In your specific situation, if you were to claim for your benefits to start mid-year (e.g., in May at age 64), you would be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,580 for the remaining months of 2021, and if you exceed that monthly limit in any month, you won't be entitled to any benefits for that month. Then in 2022 you'll be subject to the annual limit, which isn't yet published but will be slightly more than the 2021 limit.

Exceeding the earnings limit means that Social Security will make you repay some of your benefits and, unless you make special arrangements to do otherwise, they will withhold future benefits until they recover what you owe. That means going without benefits for some months, and if you have a spouse or other dependent(s) collecting on your record, their benefits will also be suspended for that amount of time.

So, as you can see there is no one simple answer to your question of when the best time is to claim Social Security. But a careful look at your personal circumstances relative to the above information should help you make that decision.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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A dahlia fetish

While I always devote a portion of the vegetable garden to cut flower plots for the girls and I, last summer in particular we really got into picking big, beautiful bouquets for the house. One flower that did particularly well for us was the dahlia. I had four varieties total in varying sizes and color, and boy did these add a lot to the vase.

I enjoyed harvesting them so much that I invested in a sampler pack from Old House Gardens mail order company, as well as another couple varieties from local growers. I can't wait to be surprised by what is in my sample pack.

Today was the designated day to plant them. I was a little nervous because the soil temperatures have only begun to warm up, but I had the time so I did it and will pray for the best. Sometimes you just have to do what you have to do! Read on to learn about this unique flower.

Dahlias are not hardy in our area. For that reason we wait until the danger of frost has passed to plant them. They can be started from seeds but most are grown from tubers of a named variety that was purchased from a nursery or mail order company. According to one source, there are some 50,000 named dahlia varieties! Flowers can vary in size from mignon singles that are a mere 2 inches across to AA size which grow over 10 inches wide.

Plant heights vary as well, ranging from six inches to 20 feet tall! Six different size flowers and 14 shapes are possible with colors that appear in nearly every shade except for true blue. Small varieties make especially good bedding plants, mixing well with other annual and perennial garden flowers. Large flowered types are suitable "specimen" plants that stand well on their own in nearly any gardening situation. All are great and long-lasting cut flowers.

Dahlias have the reputation of being "high maintenance," probably because they need to be staked and pinched. They are also prone to insect and disease problems. None of this should dissuade you from growing them, however. Plant dahlias in full sun in fertile soil amended sparingly with compost and organic fertilizers. Most tubers are planted about three inches deep and one to three feet away from one another, depending on plant size. Providing enough air circulation between plants will help keep diseases at bay.

Most gardeners install a stake at planting time and attach the dahlia to it as it grows, beginning when it is a foot tall. Subsequent ties are made every 18 inches or so depending on variety. Without the use of stakes, large flowers will likely topple in the wind and rain, some-

times taking a good portion of the plant with it.

Pinching dahlias is another good practice. When the plant has three sets of leaves gently remove its growth tip. This will encourage more branching and inevitably more flowers. Once blooming starts, it is important to cut away spent blooms on a regular basis; tubers

will grow stronger because of it. Dahlias thrive on sufficient moisture, especially since they are shallow rooted. Furnish them with one inch per week during active growth. As the growing season draws to a close, hold back on water and any supplemental fertilization you have been providing. This will give the tubers a chance to harden off before they are removed from the ground.

Dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers; it is a great place to adhere a label. Take it from me, it is easy to forget a name over the winter months! Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40 to 50 degrees temps and 90% humidity. These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant. Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the off-season. Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.

Some dahlias like to get a jump-start on the season by prestarting dahlias indoors. We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village, and I am always amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.

It's my hope that you will venture into the land of dahlia growing and love it as much as I do!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

IN THE GARDEN

Letters to the Editor

Thanks community

The Three Rivers Fire Fighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary wishes to thank everyone who helped to make our recent Bottle and Can Drive a success. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Also, a special "thank you" to Wyatt for his assistance.

The Three Rivers Fire Fighter's
Association Ladies Auxiliary

Seeking your support

This is an open letter to the voters and residents of Bondsville. My name is Paul Sigovitch and I am a candidate for First Engineer. On May 25, 2021 at 7 p.m. is the annual Bondsville Fire and Water District meeting. Up for election this year is the 3 year term for First Engineer/Fire Chief. I am currently serving as First Assistant Chief and look forward to now leading this great organization. I have served on the department for almost 20 years and am very involved in all aspects of the fire department.

I have worked very hard to earn the respect of each of our members and mutual aid partners and strive everyday to serve the community with trained and engaged members to help with fire and public safety. I believe my experience will be beneficial as we move forward. I would appreciate your support on May 25.

Thank you.
Paul Sigovitch
Assistant Chief- Bondsville Fire Department

The month of May blooms with tributes

The month of May buds and blossoms with times to honor, celebrate and commemorate those who currently serve and have served on many front lines for our health, safety and freedoms.

May1 is known as May Day and the springtime budding of Dogwood tree blossoms and flowering shrubs such as forsythia and lilacs. It's also a day when fragrant flowers can be arranged in baskets and given in springtide celebration to family and friends.

National Nurses week is observed May 2-8 and National Nurses Day is May 6 honoring nursing students as well as the front-line nurses serving patients is nationally honored during this week.

Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9 honored Mothers and has been celebrated since 1907 on the first Sunday in May. On the second Sunday in May, Step Mothers have been recognized for their important roles too.

The National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6, unites all denominations across our great nation in gathered prayer times throughout the day.

On May 7, Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a time when the wife or husband of a service person is wonderfully recognized for their sacrifice and support of their military partner.

Armed Forces Day is a national holiday. On the third Saturday, May 15, celebratory services are held across our great nation, honoring all branches of the military that fought and protected us in the air, on land and sea: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. Also May 15-22, is the week-long honoring and recognition of those who are among the first to arrive and give assistance at an emergency. These on-call heroes include law enforcement officers, paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighters.

Sunday, May 23, marks Pentecost Sunday, which is 50 days after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and Disciples after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. It also designates the start of the Christian church's global mission and is recognized worldwide in both Eastern and Western traditions. Memorial Day weekend May 29-31, hosts outstanding ceremonial commemorations of millions of heroic Veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice for all the freedoms that we have and enjoy.

In 1893, while traveling by train across our country, Wellesley College English Professor Katherine Lee Bates wrote "America the Beautiful." In her poem she deeply recognized the soldier's sacrifice, and the message still extends through centuries. The following verse is especially significant: "Oh beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife, Who more than self their country love, And mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, Till all success be nobleness, And, every gain divine!"



WE'RE ALL EARS

Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?
Let us know how we're doing.

Your opinion is something we always want to hear. Call or contact us via email mharrison@turley.com.

The Journal Register
journalregister.turley.com

A Turley Publications, Inc. Community Newspaper

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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History Matters

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

May 16 to May 31
By John Grimaldi
& David Bruce Smith

The Lincoln-Douglas debates pushed the possibility of a Lincoln presidency into inevitability. Positioned against Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois in a sequence of debates during re-election year, Douglas insisted the legality of slavery should be determined by the states and territories. Lincoln argued for its abolition.

Douglas kept his seat and Lincoln lost the argument, but his rhetoric raised his profile, and that of the unshaped Republican party.

Two years later, on May 18, 1860,

Lincoln was the party's nominee for the presidential election. He faced off with Douglas; Southern Democrat John C. Breckinridge; and Constitutional Union candidate John Bell. Lincoln won 40% of the vote and became the first Republican President of the United States.

It was a victory that activated the secession of southern states, the creation of the Confederacy, and the Civil War.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America" by Allen C. Guelzo.

Spirit of St. Louis

At 7:52 in the morning of May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh, lifted off in his monoplane, "The Spirit of St. Louis", from Roosevelt Airfield in Long Island, New York in a win-it or die-trying" 3,610-mile transatlantic bet. At first, getting airborne was difficult, he had a heavy fuel load, but eventually, he did.

Thirty-three and a half hours later, Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget Airfield, Paris; more than 100,000 people; droves of reporters, and correspondents, awaited the arrival of the first pilot, ever, to make a nonstop U.S. to Europe crossing.

WALES GOVERNMENT

Town Election

Voters go to the polls May 26; Mail ballots accepted

WALES — Voters go to the polls May 26 for the annual town election.

In addition to candidates for office, the ballot asks voters to decide whether or not to change the position of Road Commissioner from an elected office to an appointment by the Select Board.

This year, you can vote by mail. Applications are available at the Senior Center, Town Office or Library. Completed ballots must be received at the Town Office by 8 p.m. on May 26.

For more, go to townofwales.net.

Candidates for this year’s election are:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (three year term)
William J. Matchett Candidate for Re-election

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (three-year term)
Leon Givner Candidate for Re-election

PLANNING BOARD (three-year term) *
Sarah L. Ryan 9 Main Street non-incumbent

TREASURER (three-year term)
Rodney A. Kincaid Candidate for Re-election

TAX COLLECTOR (three-year term)
Rebecca R. Smith Candidate for Re-election
Melanie A. Oney Challenger

BOARD OF HEALTH (three-year term)
Kenneth C. Moore Candidate for Re-election
Jean M. Herbert Challenger

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER (three-year term)
Joel Robert Jette Candidate for Re-election

LIBRARY TRUSTEE (three-year term)
Keridwyn E. Pitcher Candidate for Re-election

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER (three-year term)
Carolyn A. Boehne Candidate for Re-election
John S. Croke Challenger

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE (three-year term)
Michael J. Valanzola Candidate for Re-election

ROAD COMMISSIONER (three-year term)
Bruce R. Cadieux Candidate for Re-election

MODERATOR (three-year term)
Michael J. Valanzola Candidate for Re-election

CONSTABLE (three-year term)
Charles Smith Candidate for Re-election

Nominations Sought for Healthcare Heroes

SPRINGFIELD – In the spring of 2017, Healthcare News and its sister publication, BusinessWest, created a new and exciting recognition program called Healthcare Heroes. Nominations are currently being sought for the Class of 2021.

The program was launched because there are heroes working all across this region’s wide, deep, and all-important healthcare sector. There is no shortage of fascinating stories to tell and individuals and groups to honor.

But there are countless heroes whose stories we still need to tell, especially in these times, when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many types of heroes to the forefront.

And that’s where you come in.

Nominations for the class of 2021 are due June 24, and we encourage you to get involved and help recognize someone you consider to be a hero in Western Mass. in one (or more) of these seven categories:

- Patient/Resident/Client Care Provider;
- Health/Wellness Administrator/Administration;
- Emerging Leader;
- Community Health;
- Innovation in Health/Wellness;
- Collaboration in Health/Wellness; and
- Lifetime Achievement.

The Healthcare Heroes event is presented by Elms College.

Nominations can be submitted at businesswest.com/healthcare-heroes/nominations. For more information call Jennifer Godaire, Marketing and Events Director, at 413-781-8600, ext. 100, or email godaire@businesswest.com.

HISTORY | from page 4

The news generated headlines around the world, about “Lucky Lindy” and “The Lone Eagle.” In addition to the acclaim, Lindbergh earned a cash award for his feat, the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in today’s currency.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Lindbergh” by A. Scott Berg.

Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn was originally a separate city, bifurcated from New York City by the East River. Then, everything changed on May 24, 1883, when the Brooklyn Bridge opened; 250,000 people sauntered across it within 24 hours. It had taken 14 years for John A. Roebling, a German born industrial engineer, to construct what was then the world’s largest and longest suspension structure.

According to History.com, “Roebling is credited with a major breakthrough in suspension-bridge technology: a web truss added to either side of the bridge roadway that greatly stabilized the structure.” Until then, bridges of that type were notorious for their inability to deal with heavy winds and loads.

The Department of Transportation says today, 138 years later, more than 100,000 cars, 4,000 cyclists, and 10,000 pedestrians, cross daily.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends David McCullough’s “The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge.”

Commonwealth to re-open fully on May 29

On Monday, Gov. Baker announced the Commonwealth is on track to meet the goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June and all remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted effective May 29.

The Commonwealth’s face covering order will also be rescinded on May 29. The Department of Public Health will issue a new face covering advisory consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s updated guidance. Face coverings will still be mandatory for all individuals on public and private transportation systems (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), in healthcare facilities and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.

Gov. Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15.

The administration also

announced updates that will be effective May 18 to revise face covering requirements for youth and amateur sports and other guidance relating to childcare programs and K-12 schools. The administration will release updated guidance for summer camps effective May 29.

Baker said he is able to take these steps to reopen the Commonwealth’s economy because Massachusetts is on track to meet the goal set in December to fully vaccinate over 4 million individuals by the first week of June. The Commonwealth leads the nation in vaccinating residents, with 75% of adults receiving at least one dose. To date, over 4 million residents have received a first dose, with 3.2 million fully vaccinated.

New cases have dropped by 89% since January 8. COVID hospitalizations are down 88% since January 1 and the positive test rate is down by

88% from peaking at 8.7% on January 1 to 1% today.

Circle the date

Effective May 29, all industries will be permitted to open. With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for public and private transportation systems and facilities housing vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

All industries are encouraged to follow CDC guidance for cleaning and hygiene protocols.

On May 18, Baker’s office published the reopening phases, which called for ending restrictions when vaccines became widely available.

In line with updated CDC face covering guidance, the Administration will rescind the current face covering order and issue a new face covering advisory effective May 29.

Non-vaccinated individuals are advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings. The advisory will also recommend fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

Face coverings will still be required for all individuals on public and private transportation (including rideshares, livery, taxi, ferries, MBTA, Commuter Rail and transportation stations), healthcare facilities and providers, congregate care settings and health and rehabilitative day services. Face coverings will also remain required indoors for staff and students of K-12 schools and early education providers.

Amateur sports guidance will be updated to no longer require face coverings for youth athletes 18 and under while playing outdoor sports. Effective May 29, all youth and amateur sports restrictions will be lifted.

Guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Early Education and Care will be updated to no longer require masks for outdoor activities like recess and to allow for the sharing of objects in classrooms, in both K-12 and childcare settings. This guidance will remain in effect beyond May 29.

Baker will end the State of Emergency June 15. He said the administration will work with legislative and municipal partners during this period in order to manage an orderly transition from emergency measures adopted by executive order and special legislation during the period of the State of Emergency.

HTAT celebrates Chip Your Pet Month with Name-Your-Price clinic

BRIMFIELD — In honor of National Chip Your Pet Month, Brimfield shelter Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, will run a name-your-price microchip clinic at the Ware Grange Hall, 297 Belchertown Road (Rte. 9), in Ware 3-5 p.m. Saturday, May 22.

Pet owners can get their dog or cat chipped at a pay-what-you-want rate, with a suggested price of \$15.

A microchip is the size of a grain of rice. It is placed under a pet’s skin, and contains the owner’s contact information. Microchips greatly increase the chances of reuniting lost pets with their families.

The microchipping clinic is part of HTAT’s larger efforts to keep pets with families.

“We see too many flyers and Facebook posts of people searching for their lost pets, especially indoor cats,” said Rachael Max, executive director and board president of HTAT.

“If the front door gets left open for even a minute, your indoor cat can wander out and get lost in the unfamiliar environment. But if your cat has a microchip, anyone who picks them up can bring them to a shelter, where we’ll scan the cat, locate the microchip, and contact you within minutes. We want to facilitate as many happy reunions as possible. We’re often told that an indoor cat doesn’t need a microchip, but those are the cats who most commonly end up in shelters after getting lost. Microchipping your pet is an easy, convenient, and safe way to ensure that anyone who finds your pet will know how to get them back to you.”

Among HTAT’s other community assistance programs is their new Pet Food Pantry, their low-cost spay/neuter program, and their free behavioral help

program.

If you need assistance in feeding or caring for your pet, Here Today Adopted Tomorrow can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$50 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! In addition, those struggling to feed their pets can apply to the Pet Food Pantry. Please visit heretodayshelter.org or call 413-324-8224 to learn more about these and more community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow, HTAT, was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on reducing the number of homeless animals in our community through prevention and adoption services. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield MA. Our ultimate goal is to decrease the number of animals entering the shelter system. It is deeply important to us that every resident’s stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, including shy, fearful and senior cats. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone, so we started programs to spay and neuter local community cats. To date, HTAT has helped over 2,500 cats.

For more information, visit heretodayshelter.org. Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook and follow them on Instagram at @heretodayadoptedtomorrow.

State legislators advocate for adoptees at public health hearing

BOSTON – State Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and State Rep Sean Garballey (D-Arlington) testified Monday to the Joint Committee on Public Health in support of their bill to grant equal access to original birth certificates to all persons born in Massachusetts. This legislation would remove “gap years” in the birth certificate access law, allowing all persons born or adopted in Massachusetts to access their original birth certificates.

Gobi spoke on the need for equity in the availability of these birth records at the hearing. “The passage of this bill would open the path to reconciliation for so many adoptees in the commonwealth who have been unable to access important information related to their birth and history,” she said. “Closing this loophole is the first step in that process.”


“I was proud to testify on this critical piece of legislation with my friend Senator Gobi,” said Garballey. “The passage of this legislation is essential for adoptees across the commonwealth. Adoptees in Massachusetts should be able to have their own vital records. We must pass this bill this session.”

The bill, H.2294/S.1140, is important as the current law in the state denies the right to have a record of one’s birth to adopted persons born in Massachusetts between July 18, 1974 and Jan. 1, 2008. Following a practice that was common then, Massachusetts sealed adoption records from July 1974 until 2008, when they embraced the trend to-

wards transparency and allowed adoptees to access their original certificates. The law change, however, only applied to those adoptees born before the records were sealed (July 1974) or after the law was passed (January 2008), creating a 32-year gap between that has left thousands of adopted people unable to access their original birth documents. The bills filed this session would amend the current law to remove date-based restrictions in providing original birth certificates to adult adoptees, creating a more equitable system for those who have struggled to obtain these important, life-affirming documents.

Jean Strauss, a filmmaker from East Brookfield who has documented adoption reform for 30 years, was one of the people who testified about the need for change. Strauss, whose film, ADOPTED: For the Life of Me aired on PBS, said, “When I filmed the ‘Opening Day’ in 2007 when adoptees born on or before July 17, 1974 could request their record, witnessing citizens seeing their original identity for the first time was profoundly moving. But it was heart-breaking to know that anyone born after that specific date was not going to have the same right. Today was a huge step forward in providing equal access to ALL persons adopted in Massachusetts. Senator Gobi has provided amazing and tireless support of this effort.”

For more information on the bill please contact Gobi’s office by email at Anne.Gobi@MAsenate.gov.



BELCHERTOWN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2021-2022 school year:

Grade K	8	Grade 6	1
Grade 2	4	Grade 7	10
Grade 3	4	Grade 8	10
Grade 4	1	Grade 9	12
Grade 5	4	Grade 10	12

The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application packet which includes all required documents is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 25, 2021.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on June 25, 2021, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 13, 2021.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at www.belchertownps.org or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.



1455 N. Main Street, Third Floor
Palmer, MA 01069
facebook.com/topfloorlearningpalmer

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- Basic reading, writing and math skills
- High School Equivalency Exam (GED) preparation
- English Language Instruction (including conversation classes)
- Citizenship preparation
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For program information call Gail (413) 283-2329, or reach her by e-mail at: gcarneiro@topfloorlearning.org

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TFL is seeking a **Director of Adult Literacy/Operations Officer** who is passionate about helping adult learners meet their educational goals. The successful candidate will work closely with TFL’s Board of Trustees, tutors, students, volunteers, and community businesses/organizations of the Quaboag Hills region and surrounding areas. General responsibilities will include:

- Recruiting, matching, and training volunteer tutors.
- Organizing and administering all programs of adult instruction, such as ESL, Reading, Writing, Math, HiSET, Computer Skills, and many more!
- Being aware of community educational needs and interests.
- Providing educational guidance to assist adult learners in meeting their educational goals.
- Coordinating fundraising and promotional efforts with a team of volunteers.

This position requires 20-30 hours per week and is a year-round position. Interested candidates should send their resumes to topfloorlearningpalmer@gmail.com.

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ALLEN | from page 1

your opposition to a certain solar operation coming to town. Can you please briefly explain your opposition as well as your ideas for an alternative you feel would be better for the town? Please be as specific as possible.

Allen: For too long now, Monson has seen big out-of-state corporations take priority over small local business and small local farms. It's time for a change.

Q: It's nearly the 10-year anniversary of the tornado that destroyed a downtown building. That vacant lot attracted attention from Dollar General and that proposal was widely opposed before it was withdrawn. If you had your choice of what happens with that property, what would it be?

Allen: The property owner of the former Monson Academy Holmes gymnasium is a Monson native. He submitted plans to the town to revive our former fitness center, but unfortunately the town denied it. We should support these kinds of projects because when we don't, the alternative is Dollar General and the like.

Q: What book(s) are you reading now, or last book read?

Allen: Bob Fudge - Texas Trail Driver, Montana Wyoming Cowboy, 1862-1933, by Jim Russell

Talk about yourself

Please use this space to tell readers/voters more about you as a person.

Allen: My parents Leo and Sandy Bailey bought their beautiful 55-acre farm in Monson back in 1977, where they raised their seven children. We all went to Monson schools and played sports year-round. On weekends, we went to church and came home to split wood and keep up the farm. We also spent a lot of time playing in the woods. It was a great way to grow up.

I was raised with a strong worth ethic, and a firm sense of family and community.

After college, I was middle school teacher with Monson Schools for four years. Today, I work in training and marketing. I also have an extensive background in communications, technology, sales, and customer service. I have been with my current company for almost 15 years.

I am married to my husband, Jesse, and together we have a 7-year-old daughter Calli. She's in the first grade and is currently playing pinto baseball with Parks & Rec.

I'm pro-community, pro-small business, pro-Monson. I love this little town of ours.

I'm not a politician. I'm not an attorney. I'm a regular townspeople who has been paying close attention to local government for quite some time now. I feel we need less politicians and more real people in these seats.

NOTHE-VALLEY | from page 1

costs and economic recovery. The Select Board Members must decide on the best use of this money for our community.

2. Transition in town government. Monson is in a transitional time. We have a new Town Administrator. We're experiencing longstanding town employees retiring. I am eager to collaborate with the Town Administrator and our elected and appointed officials to shape Monson's future through proactive leadership and positive change. Let's welcome younger generations into community involvement, attracting them to seek appointments to town boards and committees. I'll mentor young people, showing them the procedural path to serving the public without directing their ideas.

3. Senior housing gaps. There are limited options for senior housing in Monson. There's a gap for seniors who cannot get into Colonial Village due to income limits or other reasons but they may not have the resources to purchase an over-55 condominium or may need assistance that's not offered in either option. I will investigate whether alternatives can be developed to allow for some senior citizens to continue living in Monson as they age rather than be displaced to other areas where their needs can be better met.

4. What's important to one person may not be to another. However, if something is important to a town resident, it should be a priority for the Select Board to address in some way. Through proactive leadership, community involvement and positive change, I am confident that Monson will address these items, as well as the countless other important issues that may come before the Select Board in coming years.

Q: Even though town elections are non-partisan, you are politically active and have attracted some criticism in a Monson Facebook group for being a Democrat. What would you like to tell readers to assure them if you are elected, you plan to represent all residents regardless of their political affiliation?

Nothe-Valley: I care deeply about Monson. Monson is a wonderful community with a bright future. I'm enthusiastic and ready to step up to serve all of the residents, town employees and businesses in town!

A very small group of vocal critics made a few remarks on Facebook. A favorite saying of mine is: "Be an encourager,

the world has plenty of critics already." I encourage these individuals to come out and meet me personally at campaign events or on election day. I'd love to hear what's important to them and how I can help.

As they should be, municipal elections are non-partisan. Local elections don't need to be divisive. We're all part of the same community and we all want what's best for Monson. Let's work together. The three seats on the Monson Select Board are there to serve the town's residents. Personal agendas have no place there. You can count on me to do the best job I can for the town. I will always put the community's priorities ahead of my own because that is who I am. I assure you, I will serve ethically, with the utmost integrity, treating everyone with respect and fairness.

Q: It's nearly the 10-year anniversary of the tornado that destroyed a downtown building. That vacant lot attracted attention from Dollar General and that proposal was widely opposed before it was withdrawn. If you had your choice of what happens with that property, what would it be?

Nothe-Valley: As I understand it, the town doesn't own this property. Therefore, what happens with it depends on what the landowner wishes to do with their property. Second, for community development, it needs to attract a business that wants to come to Monson. Monson needs to be open to possibilities. It's not about my preference, it's about supporting a project that fits within the town by-laws and preserves the character and charm of the town.

I would support a project that involves a well-respected business, that is a good employer committed to offering jobs to residents. I prefer a company that is socially conscious and gives back to Monson. Ideally, the project would be positively viewed and supported by many residents in town and not resisted because of the company's reputation or other substantial reasons. Protecting the town against liability must be considered. If a company seeks appropriate permits, as the Dollar General did, they need to be allowed to go through the process fairly and be approved if they meet all the relevant criteria. However, if they cannot meet the by-laws, for instance, their permits should be rejected.

Q: What book(s) are you reading now, or last book read?

Nothe-Valley: Presently I am reading Scott Pelley's memoir, "Truth Worth Telling: A Reporter's Search for Meaning in the Stories of Our Times."

The memoir of Scott Pelley, 60 Minutes Correspondent, appealed to me because it is a collection of inspiring stories about memorable people from around the world who found meaning in their lives. It centers on the importance of values in uncertain times, something I think we can all relate to in modern times.

Talk about yourself

Please use this space to tell readers/voters more about you as a person.

Nothe-Valley: I have so much pride in Monson and my family. Monson is my hometown. I have deep roots. Both sets of my grandparents are from Monson. My parents, my stepmom, and I were all born here, and I also lived in Ware and Palmer when I was growing up. Like many young adults, I wanted to explore life outside of Monson and I lived in several other Massachusetts towns as a 20-something. However, when my husband Keith and I married in 2001, we both knew we wanted to raise our blended family in Monson and we purchased our house in Notheville. In our family, we have three sons (Coty, Sean and Brandon), a daughter-in-law (Brittany), our son's girlfriend (Maddy), and three sweet grand-kiddos (as I like to call them).

We enjoy spending time with our extended family, having barbecues on our patio, taking hikes on local trails, and traveling to explore new places when there isn't a pandemic keeping us close to home.

Keith and I married on Sept. 15, 2001, four days after the terrorist attacks of September 11. It was such an incredibly uncertain time for all of us. I go through life with a lot of empathy and gratitude. As such, it was not surprising that I had mixed emotions on our wedding day, not about marrying Keith, I was certain he is the one. My empathy was fierce for all those killed and all those affected when the towers fell, especially for those whose spouses didn't come home from work that day.

The one thing that was stronger than my empathy and grief was my gratitude to celebrate our wedding day surrounded by our extended family and friends.

ONEY | from page 1

and talk frankly about the problems that we face, and how best to address them. I would ask residents to get more involved, even if that just means giving feedback on how things are being done.

2. The environment is a big issue – not just being good global citizens, but ensuring that Monson maintains its open spaces and rural areas.

3. Finally, maintaining our good financial position is critical. We have some new businesses opening downtown. There is continued construction and renovation of homes and buildings. We need to do long-term planning about the direction in which we want to move, and I hope to involve knowledgeable residents in that process. Part of the planning process must include working with our state legislators on issues which are vital to Monson. One of those is a determination of the 600 acres which were formerly Monson Developmental Center.

Q: You mentioned in a past interview with us that you served on several boards and committees, including the ZBA and the town housing authority. That would seem to make you qualified to address the housing-related issues not unique to Monson, but certainly experienced here – a lack of home inventory for sale and a lack of affordable rental housing. What ideas do you have to address these issues?

Oney: Let me first respond with the reason for the lack of affordable rental housing. The MHA has a limited number of rental units which it is authorized to administer. It is currently at its maximum. For now, the only way to obtain new MHA rental units is to sell old rental units. There has not been an expansion of the number of units since 1986, when there was a convergence of budget monies, incentives to the town for expansion, and the real estate boom.

And to answer your question, the fact that the dearth of inventory is so pervasive in the Western MA area, makes this a difficult problem to address. Because Monson is in eastern Hampden County, we not only have people looking for homes here from the Springfield area, but also from the Worcester area and beyond. With the prices of building materials exorbitantly high, I don't see construction (especially affordable construction) ramping up soon. And, Monson can't ignore environmental and safety issues in order to get more housing built. There is no short-term answer, although I do notice some renovation work in the downtown area.

But we need, to work with the Commonwealth to demand programs that will encourage responsible building, and again, the land of Monson Developmental Center may be able to play a part in that.

Q: Part B to this question: Monson has partnered with Wayfinders to provide assistance to renters who are in arrears because of the pandemic. Rather than pay that not-for-profit a fee for administering the program, why wouldn't it be better to administer that program in-house through the housing authority or another town agency and channel all the funds to renters in need?

Oney: "Partnered" isn't the right word. Wayfinders is an organization that helps tenants with back rent, among other issues. The tenant contacts Wayfinders directly, Wayfinders contacts the MHA to confirm that it owns the rental unit, and then Wayfinders determines the eligibility of the tenant for funding. The town does not contract with, nor pay, Wayfinders. There is no state program that would allow the MHA to assist tenants with arrearages.

Q: It's nearly the 10-year anniversary of the tornado that destroyed a downtown building. That vacant lot attracted attention from Dollar General and that proposal was widely opposed before it was withdrawn. If you had your choice of what happens with that property, what would it be?

Oney: Given the residential tenor of that neighborhood, and the fact that we continually talk about the shortage of housing in Monson, one reasonable use would be housing of some type. If the citizens would prefer an expansion of our commercial base, the use would have to be a low-volume traffic establishment, like a service-based business or medical office.

Q: What book(s) are you reading now, or last book read?

Oney: The Boy from the Woods (Harlan Coben is one of my favorite authors. I love mystery/thrillers).

A Promised Land (Barack Obama's 700+ page insider's view of his life and politics, which is tough going, so I'm reading other books at the same time)

Deep State (James B. Stewart's look at the Trump presidency)

Talk about yourself

Please use this space to tell readers/voters more about you as a person.

Oney: My father grew up on a farm in Kentucky, joined the U.S. Army to fight in WW II, and became a police officer when he left the service. My mother was born in Italy, came to this country through Ellis Island as a young girl, and was one of the smartest people I knew. They settled in Chatham, NJ, where I received an amazing public school education, along with my brothers. Title IX, the federal law which set standards for equality in education, was passed when I was in high school, and as a result, I was in the third class at Rutgers College that had women in it. (Previously, women had to attend the Douglass College part of the University).

Also, about 25% of my law school class was female, and that was fairly high compared to other schools. I paid my own way through college and law school, although I was very lucky to have received a number of scholarships. I moved to Monson in 1983, soon after law school, and got involved in town government, as you can see from the offices I've held. I love this town and have been involved in the community for my entire adult life.

I am married to Michael Szwed, and Monson has been a great place to raise our daughter, Katie. She has many wonderful friends and memories. When I tell people that Katie is graduating from college this year, they tell me they can't believe it, and that they remember me pushing her up Ely Road in the stroller with the dogs close by. We now have a great dog named Otto who was a rescue, who still tries to keep up with me when we walk, even though he's 13.

I was Assistant General Counsel for the MA Department of Developmental Services for 28 years, where I worked with some very caring and dedicated people, and am now retired. I enjoy working in our vegetable garden, although by the end of the summer, the neighbors are tired of me trying to pawn off on them the abundant crop. I'm happy to be outside, even if it's mowing the grass. I love to read and have always been an avid reader. I am a slightly obsessed Patriots and Bruins fan. I am trying very hard to become a good golfer, although the game drives me crazy.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Prevents harm to young
5. "Losing My Religion" rockers
8. Partner to pan
11. Cavalry unit
13. Peyton's little brother
14. Mexican dish
15. Disseminates info to the public
16. Set an animal on
17. Canadian flyers
18. Elongated mouths of arthropods
20. I (German)
21. Opposite of west
22. Glows
25. Measures how quickly a car moves
30. One who has gained wealth
31. Patti Hearst's captors
32. Extensive landed property
33. Male aristocrat
38. For each
41. More fidgety
43. Very happy
45. A place to store info
47. Helps to heal
49. 12th month (abbr.)
50. Broad, shallow
55. Nocturnal S. American rodent
56. Frost
57. Ethiopian town
59. Curved shapes
60. Company that rings receipts
61. Spiritual leader
62. Sheep native to Sweden
63. Cars need it
64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

1. Scientist's high-resolution tool (abbr.)
2. Type of school
3. Formal close (music)
4. Transmits high voltage
5. A way to occupy a certain area
6. Draws out
7. His Airness
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. South American plants
10. Homestead
12. Bland or semiliquid food
14. Forest resident
19. The body needs it
23. Atomic mass unit (abbr.)
24. Spell
25. Relaxing place
26. Political fundraising tool
27. Make a mistake
28. Partner to Adam
29. Tyrant
34. Unit of electrical resistance
35. A history of one's life
36. Actor DiCaprio
37. Sea eagle
39. Avoiding being caught
40. ___ de Mornay, actress
41. Belonging to a thing
42. Not us
44. Motorcars
45. Capital of Bangladesh
46. Ancient Greek sophist
47. Practice boxing
48. ___ Grant, actor
51. Swiss river
52. S. Sudan river
53. A bumpkin
54. One point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Journal Register, please email mharrison@turley.com.

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Celebrating The Class Of '21



Joseph Black, a Palmer High senior, is happy to attend the Class of 2021 parade.



Palmer High School students Jocelyn Benard, Emma Shorette, Ali Heydare, and Cam Corcoran show their school pride.



Seniors receive their caps and gowns, followed by their personalized banner and lawn sign.



Parents of Palmer High students have been working hard to give seniors a celebratory sendoff after challenging year during the pandemic.



The Palmer High School Panther stops by to support the Class of 2021.



Cars make their way around the parade route as the community turned out to celebrate the Class of '21.



Jill Lombardi, Markys Lissaint, Arthur Prak, and Juny McCall enjoy the moment during last Saturday's Palmer High celebration of the Class of '21.



Personalized lawn signs adorn the front of high school.



Parents create a tribute to Palmer High students on the tennis courts fence the night before the parade.



A trio of soon-to-be Palmer High graduates wear celebratory glasses during a celebration in their honor.

CELEBRATION | from page 1

was also hung on the tennis court by the entrance of the high school. The banners and signs were provided with funds that were raised by the senior parent group and produced by Turley Publications.

The parade was planned and put together by several parents who wanted to do something to make up for the loss of senior-related events because of the pandemic.

"Because of COVID, they didn't get a junior prom, they're not going to have a Class Day, and their winter sports seasons were cut short," parent Tracey Rivers said.

"They really missed out on a lot this year, so we're just trying to make on special day for them."

The parents raised \$7,600 from local businesses that also helped pay for a senior banquet scheduled for Friday as well as Class of 2021 masks for graduation day and a variety of treats in goodie bags.

Along with Rivers, parents involved in putting the parade together, included Jolene Mastalerz, Lynn Brown, Deanna

Sloat, Nickey Rathbone, Addie Bernard, Melissa Webber, Marianne Dinelle, Ranae Lombardi, Tracey Benard, Deanna Mega and Martina Buchman.

Businesses and donors who contributed included Turley Publications, Demore's Automotive, Safe & Sound, Inc., Linda & Rick Anderson, Noonan Energy, Tailgate Tavern, AAGGO Movers, Adaptas Solutions, American Cable Assemblies, Architectural Insights, Breton Estates Inc., Christine Heydare, N.E. Central Railroad, Northern Tree, Sandra Noonan, Karen & Karl Oliveira, Kim's Hair Care, Polymer Corporation, Rusty Heart, Source Two, Inc., St. Mary's Lyceum, Anonymous, Angel's 1376 Palmer, Restaurant, Big Y, Brush It Off, Buddy's Auto Sales, Dimauro Carpet & Tile, Eric's Repair, Fire Service Group, Francesco's, Gotta Dance, Brenda & Thomas Graveline, On3 Photography, Palmer Chiropractic PC, Bonny Rathbone, Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc., S.L. Marhelewicz, CPA, PC, Steer Rite, Stone and Sparrow, The Gin Mill, and Trio Salon.

Class of 2021

The PHS Senior Class & their families would like to thank the community, the fire and police departments and friends for helping them celebrate their accomplishments!

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Rathbone Precision Metals, Inc.
S.L. Marhelewicz, CPA, PC
Steer Rite
Stone and Sparrow
The Gin Mill
Trio Salon
William J. Vigneux, DMD

Each student received a personalized banner and lawn sign for them to display, and was also recognized with a wall banner that was displayed on the fencing at the PHS tennis court.

With the additional funds that were raised the students' fees were paid for the senior banquet to be held this Friday, and Class of 2021 masks were given to each student as well as other goodies.





Carl W. takes aim as he learns the rules and technique for archery.



Scouts learn how to make a stretcher out of branches and a blanket.



Lily W. gets ready to climb the rock wall at Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation.

Pack 164, adventure awaits for those who want to join Scouting

PALMER — Do you know what to do if you are caught in a thunderstorm without any shelter?

Did you know that when you are assessing where to set up your tent, you must also look up to make sure tree branches don't fall on your tent? How about which knot to use to tie two ropes together?

These are all questions the Cub Scouts of Pack 164 in Palmer learn to answer!

Cub Scouting is a family-friendly program that teaches boys and girls in grades kindergarten through fifth grade about leadership, fitness, community service, citizenship, and fun. As a Lion Cub Scout, they learn the basics of outdoor safety and healthy lifestyle choices, while also working with their adult partner. They continue

to learn about nature, essentials for hiking, reading maps and knife safety in the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks.

In the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks, they start to prepare for their journey in their future Scouts BSA Troops by learning the patrol method, cooking and first aid basics, and citizenship. Fitness, leadership skills and the importance of community service and conservation are emphasized throughout all of the ranks.

Cub Scout Pack 164 also features a year-round program that includes many fun family events and activities. Some favorites are the Pinewood Derby, fishing derbies, Pack family campouts, sports games, miniature golf and hikes. We also attend our local Council's sponsored

events that include activities such as bouldering walls, archery, snowshoeing and summer camp.

The Pack is hosting a family fishing Hooked on Scouting event 9 a.m.-noon May 22 at Camp Ramah for families interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program. All they ask is you bring a fishing pole and they will supply the bait.

Palmer Cub Scout Pack 164 is chartered by Second Congregational Church and is open to boys and girls in the community in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Are you unable to make it on May 22, but would still like to learn more? Visit cubscoutpackonesixfourpalmer.com on Facebook or send an email to bsarecruiter164@gmail.com.



Arrow of Light Scouts learn about naval vessels at Battleship Cove.

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LACROSSE

Mustangs coast to win over Rams

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—One of the things that first-year Monson boys lacrosse coach Conor Quinn wants his players to do in every match is to score 10 goals before the opposing team.

Just like in the season opening victory against Granby five days earlier, the Mustangs reached the ten-goal mark first and coasted to a 19-1 road victory, last Monday afternoon (May 10).

“One of our goals is to score ten goals before the other team does in every game that we play,” Quinn

said. “Whenever we’re able to do that, it usually gives us an edge. It also makes it very difficult for the opposing team to make a comeback.”

The Mustangs (2-1) also scored more than ten goals against St. Mary’s of Westfield, but they lost that match.

The trio of senior Joe Angelica, junior Nick DiSanti, and sophomore Cole Stevens recorded hat-tricks in the Mustangs second meeting of the season against Granby (0-2).

“We like to play fast and with a lot of energy,” Quinn added. “It’s a lot of fun when you’re playing fast

and scoring goals.”

Angelica led the way offensively with five goals.

“I probably wouldn’t be able to score any goals without the help of my teammates,” Angelica said. “I really don’t keep track of how many goals I score in a game. I do keep track of my assists because it’s always a lot more fun watching one of my teammates score a goal.”

Stevens finished the road match with four goals, while DiSanti netted all three of his goals during the first half.

Monson freshman goalie Scott Kustra came close to posting his

first career shutout. He only had to make a couple of saves.

The only positive thing that first-year Granby head coach Brady Seymour took from the match was the performance of freshman goalie Connor McDonnell, who made a season-high 40 saves.

“Connor is an outstanding goalie,” said Seymour, who wasn’t very happy following the match. “We just need to keep improving in every game.”

It took the Mustangs seven seconds to score their first goal, as Stevens delivered a quick pass to DiSanti, who fired a close range

shot into the cage.

With a little more than four minutes remaining in the opening quarter, the Mustangs built a 4-0 lead following goals by senior Zack Wysk, DiSanti, and Joe Angelica.

Junior Michael Arabik scored the lone Granby goal, which was unassisted, with 3:52 left in the opening quarter.

A goal by eighth grader Domanic Fleming with two minutes left in the quarter gave Monson a 5-1 advantage.

The Mustangs pulled away during the second quarter by scoring six more goals.

Joe Angelica and Stevens combined to score the Mustangs first four goals of the second stanza.

Monson’s tenth goal was scored by DiSanti with 5:45 left in the first half.

Senior Mike Lacacy put his name into the scoring column following a rebound goal giving the visiting team a commanding 11-1 halftime lead.

The Mustangs second half goals were scored by sophomore Jack Jennings, junior Jason Angelica, Stevens, and Joe Angelica.

SOFTBALL

Szado commands circle in Mustangs win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Following in her mother’s footsteps, eighth grader Molly Szado played a key role in the first home win for the Monson varsity softball team since 2018.

Szado, who was the Lady Mustangs starting shortstop, replaced senior Olivia Colling in the circle with her team holding a slim one run lead against Ware in the top of the second inning. She got out of that inning without allowing any runs to cross the plate and the Monson offense took care of the rest.

The Lady Mustangs celebrated a 15-2 victory over the Lady Indians at the Quarry Hill Community School softball field, last Tuesday afternoon (May 11). The contest ended after 4 ½ innings due to the 12-run mercy rule.

“It feels very nice to finally win a game on our home field,” said Jill Carneglia, who won her second game as the Monson varsity softball coach. “We do have a lot of younger players and the future looks very bright for us.”

Because Monson (1-1) doesn’t have a JV team this season, twelve of the players listed on the varsity roster are either in the seventh, eighth, or ninth grades. Colling is the lone senior listed on the varsity roster.

Monson’s only victory during the 2019 regular season was at South Hadley by the final score of



Natalie Hull fires the ball to first.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

LACROSSE

Pioneers edge Rams



Max Sanderson starts a rush toward the Granby goal.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

PALMER – Last Friday afternoon, Eathan Farrar’s three goals paced Pathfinder to a narrow 4-3 win over visiting Granby. Cody Ferus also scored and Nick Beaulieu had three assists. The Pioneers are 1-2 to start the season.



Eathan Farrar takes a shot on goal.



Kiernan Moe receives a pass from the defense.



Ashton Tebo launches a pass up the field.



Cody Ferus shoots ahead of defensive pressure.

AUTO RACING

Buffone captures first win of season

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Ricky Whipple romped to victory in the 57-lap John Zellman Memorial Pure Stock feature Saturday, May 8, at Monadnock Speedway, however in post-race inspection, Davis was awarded the win.

Cam Curtis flexed his muscles to top the Late Model Sportsman main, with Chris Buffone taking no prisoners en route to the Street Stock victory.

Mini Stock ace Gordon Farmum earned his first victory lap of the season Saturday, while Six Shooter powerhouse Dustin Thibodeau’s first career outing on the high banks netted him the win, and Jake Bosse was victorious for the second week in a row in the Young Guns.

Pure Stock powerhouses Chris Davis and Kodi Sabins

led the 21-car field to begin the 57-lapper, which would sail by in breakneck fashion, as all 57-circuits around the high banks were run without cautions. Davis was the man on the point for the first 23 go-rounds.

But while Davis was fast, Ricky Whipple was on a rail. Dropping Davis to second on lap 24, he then sped away and hid. Sabins, a distant second with the white flag in the air, suddenly coasted to a stop in the infield, handing the runner-up spot back to Davis, with former Modzman Joey Jarvis completing his charge from row five to finish third. (in post-race inspection the official top three were Chris Davies, Joey Jarvis and JD Stockwell).

Robert Hagar led early and

RACING | page 10

SOCCER

Santaniello makes impact in Mutiny’s return

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Most college students will usually chill out for the rest of the day after taking a final exam.

That’s not exactly what Laura Gouvin, who lives in Monson, did after taking a Spanish final at Boston College last Saturday afternoon.

After finishing the last exam of her freshman year, Gouvin drove about 80 miles west on the Mass. Pike. She arrived at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow about ten minutes prior to the start of the New England Mutiny’s season opening match versus the Boston Scorpions S.C., who are first-year member of the United Women’s Soccer League.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, scored in the season opener for the Mutiny.

MUTINY | page 10

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games

are 12 Sundays, a special Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. While tryouts have completed, there are still open roster spots among the six teams in the league. The league will continue to accept applications for new players throughout

the season. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field in a nine-inning game. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic to start. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.



Ludlow’s Ela Kopec kicks the ball away.



Lauren Berman looks to switch up her feet.



Laura Govin, of Monson, tries to advance the ball up the field.

MUTINY | from page 9

The Scorpions stunned the Mutiny by scoring a pair of goals during the first ten minutes and they held onto the lead for the next 65 minutes.

Gouvin, who’s a midfielder, assisted on the Mutiny’s first goal of the season which was scored by Agawam native Hope Santaniello, who’s a forward, during the 76th minute.

A minute later, Melina Couzis, who was a senior defender on the UConn women’s soccer team this past spring, netted the equalizer for the Mutiny and the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

“Even though I only played a couple of games for the Mutiny in 2019, I really love being a member of this soccer club,” said Gouvin. “This stadium is very close to my hometown and I’m really looking forward to playing a full season with the Mutiny this year.”

Gouvin and several of her teammates have never lost a regular season match while wearing a Mutiny uniform. The last time they suffered a regular season loss was during 2018 season. The Mutiny played their home matches at several different fields that season before moving into Lusitano Stadium at the start of the 2019 campaign.

“This stadium is the best home field in our entire league,” said second-year Mutiny head coach Jeb Booth. “No other team has the same type of soccer culture that we do here. It’s a little

disappointing that the concession building wasn’t open yet because we can’t socialize with the players and their families following the match. It’s all about the relationship with me.”

The Mutiny finished the 2019 regular season with an 8-0-2 mark before falling to the Lancaster Inferno in the U.W.S. Eastern Conference Finals. The Mutiny players waited more than 670 days before playing another match because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Booth wasn’t very concerned after watching his team fall behind by two goals early in the match.

“I always believe that we will win every match,” said Booth, who also coaches the Fitchburg State University women’s soccer team. “I believe in them as a team and as players, so I don’t get nervous about things very often.”

The Scorpions are coached by Evan Burokas, who was a member of the Western Mass. Pioneers from 2012-2019. He also played for the Western Mass Professional team in 2015.

“None of my players had ever played a soccer match at this stadium before tonight,” Burokas said. “I told them what this stadium represents to the community and what it means to play here. It was very special for me to have my team here for the first time. We did take an early 2-0 lead, but we knew it was going to be a tough game. They just kept press-

ing us.”

There are a couple of other connections between the Scorpions and the Mutiny.

Booth has coached several of the Scorpions ENCL regional teams for more than ten years.

Lauren Berman, who’s currently a Mutiny midfielder, played for the Scorpions youth teams from U-8 to U-18. Just like Gouvin, Berman played college soccer at Boston College. She also played for a professional soccer club in Hungary for two seasons and is currently the soccer operations coordinator for the women’s soccer team at Harvard University.

The Scorpions took a 1-0 lead when forward Kristi Vierra lofted a shot from the left side of the box into the upper right corner over the head of Mutiny goalkeeper Caitlin Murphy.

Then forward Meg Hughes scored a breakaway goal giving the Scorpions a 2-0 advantage seven minutes into the season opener.

Another Monson resident listed on this year’s Mutiny roster is midfielder Lily Fabian, who’s a first-year member of the team. Fabian, who plays college soccer at UMass-Lowell, took the Mutiny’s first shot on goal that was saved by Scorpion’s goalie Kayla Thompson, who was replaced at the start of the second half by Skylar Kuzmich.

The Mutiny also changed goalies during the second half.

Ela Kopec, who was starting goalie for the Ludlow girls’ varsity soccer team last fall, replaced Murphy.

During the 76th minute, Santaniello, who’ll be a member of the U.R.I. women’s soccer team in the fall, received a pass from Gouvin and put a shot into the net.

“I saw that Laura had the ball, but I didn’t really know if she was going to make a pass or take a shot,” Santaniello said. “She made the pass to me and I just poked it into the net with my toe. It felt great after scoring that goal.”

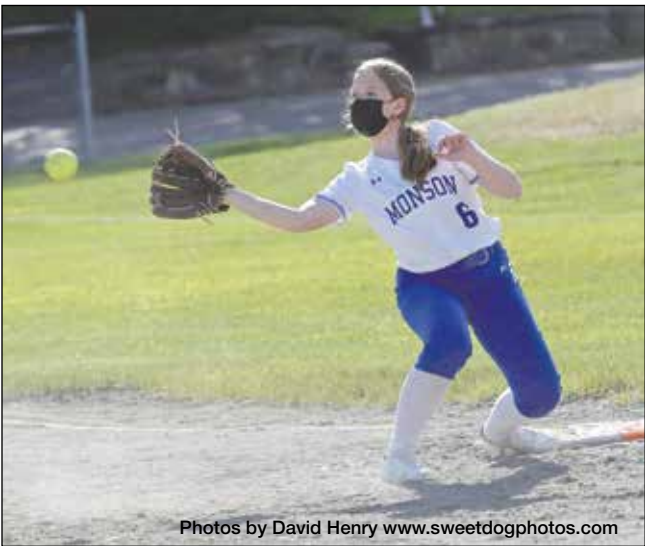
After stealing a pass from a defender, Couzis scored the tying goal a minute later.

Kopec, who’ll be a freshman member of the Villanova women’s soccer team in the fall, made an outstanding diving save, which kept the score tied.

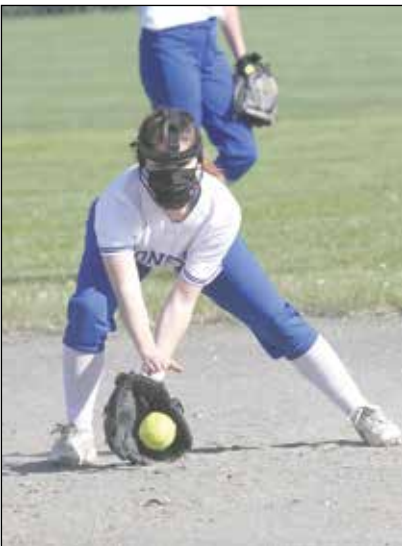
“Caitlyn played well, and our plan was to change goalies in the second half,” Booth said. “Ela also played very well. She has good hands and has the potential to be an outstanding goalkeeper.”

The other local players listed on the Mutiny gameday roster were Trystin Burger (Granby), Jocelyn Trajkovski (Ludlow), and Lydia Kinsman (Southwick).

The Mutiny will be looking to celebrate their first victory of the season when they host the Connecticut Rush at 7p.m. on Saturday night.



Sierra Martinson catches the ball at first.



Olivia Colling fields a ground ball.



Molly Szado pitches for the Mustangs.

SOFTBALL | from page 9

25-12. Their last home win also came against South Hadley, 21-9, on May 21, 2018.

Szado, who’s mother, Sara, played soccer and softball at Monson High School, wound up earning her first career varsity victory. She didn’t allow any runs on just four base hits over the final 3 2/3 innings. She recorded eight strikeouts and didn’t issue any walks.

“Molly came in and pitched a great game. She also performed very well at the plate,” Carneiglia said. “We’re very happy to have her on our team this year.”

Szado also recorded four of the Lady Mustangs nine base hits and finished the contest with a team-leading four RBIs. Overall, the Monson batters drew a total of 15 walks in the game.

“We’ve been working on being more selective on pitches at practice,” Carneiglia said. “We were very patience at the plate in

today’s game.”

It was a frustrating afternoon for the Lady Indians (1-1), who had defeated the Lady Mustangs by ten or more runs in each of the previous three meetings.

“The girls haven’t played many games during the past couple of years and they’re still rusty,” said first-year Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. “We just didn’t string enough hits together in today’s game. I think we’ll be a very good team by the end of the regular season.”

Ware defeated Granby, 9-7, in the season opener.

Six of the Ware players will be receiving their high school diplomas along with the other members of the senior class in a couple of weeks.

With two outs in the top of the first inning, Ware senior first baseman Chelsea Orszulak was safe at first base following a throwing error. Then senior

second baseman Norah Ayer followed with a walk, and junior centerfielder Emma Emanuel hit a flair single, which loaded the bases.

Colling ended that threat with a strikeout.

Colling leadoff the bottom half of the inning by hitting a triple off of Ware senior Morgan Saletnik to center field. Colling scored the Lady Mustangs first run on a wild pitch. Then Szado ripped a two-run single past the third baseman making the score 3-0.

The Lady Indians battled back with a two-run single to center by senior shortstop Aidyn Welsh in the top of the second inning. It scored Saletnik, who doubled, and sophomore catcher Natalie Silverio.

That’s when Szado took over in the circle and ended the threat with a strikeout.

Monson sent 14 batters to

the plate in the bottom of the second and eight of them scored.

Eighth grade second baseman Emily Provost had a two-run double, and Colling had a two-run single in that inning. Eight Monson batters walked, and they scored four runs with two-outs.

Eighth grader Abby McQuad, who made her first varsity appearance, replaced Saletnik in the circle in that inning.

The Lady Mustangs added four more runs in the fourth inning.

Orszulak and Emanuel both singled in the top of the fifth, which were sandwiched around an Ayer’s double with no-outs.

Had the Indians been able to score at least two runs in that inning, the game would’ve lasted a little bit longer, but Szado struck out the next three batters ending the ballgame.

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Athlete of the Week



Molly Szado

Monson High School

In her first start at Monson High School, the eighth grader picked up Monson's first home win of the season in a 15-2 win over Ware. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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ARBELLA INSURANCE

Chris Buffone, of Belchertown, picked up a win in the 25-lap Street Stock event May 8 at Monadnock Speedway.

RACING | from page 9

often in the LMS 25-lapper but, on this night, teen star Cam Curtis had the hot hand. Curtis dropped Hagar to second on lap 18 and pulled away.

Hagar finished strong, though, sailing to the runner-up finish ahead of the Bay State Curtis twins, Chase and Jaret. Cole Littlewood was fifth.

Chris Buffone, who’d struggled on opening night, put all his ills behind him Saturday. Starting up front, he led all the way in the 25-lap Street Stock feature to finish well ahead of strong and steady runner-up Nathan Wenzel.

Alstead, N.H. hot shoe Rupert Murdoch came home third, just ahead of Hillary Renaud and Tim Wenzel. Opening night winner Tommy O’Sullivan – Buffone’s uncle – took the night off.

In the Mini Stocks, it was four-holer star Gordon Farnum leading all the way. Opening night winner Ray King kept Farnum in sight but had no answer for the Fitzwilliam hot shoe. Kevin Cormier came home third, just ahead of Louie Maher and division rookie Mike Douglas.

Travis Hollis led the first 21 laps of the Six Shooter main, but Claremont kingpin Dustin Thibodeau, in his first-ever Monadnock run, used the high groove to finally take control and top the division’s first feature race of the season. It was Thibodeau’s second victory of the weekend.

Hollis was strong in second, with Brandon Mailhot steady for third. Hollis and Mailhot were the earlier qualifying race winners.

Jake Bosse made it two in a row in the novice Young Guns. Fast Eddie Petruskevicius earned the runner-up hardware, with Jeff Moffat third. Leilei Daniels won Saturday’s Young Gun heat race.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action next Saturday, May 15, with a full card of NHSTRA racing, featuring the mighty Modifieds’ third outing of the season.. For more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

Monadnock Speedway May 8 results:

Street Stocks: Christopher Buffone, Nathan Wenzel, 88-Hillary Renaud, Timothy Wenzel, Paul Smith, Nathaniel Nunez, Keith Johnson, Isabella Michella

Late Model Sportsman: Camdyn Curtis, Robert Hagar, Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Justin Littlewood, Austin Brehio, Tyler Lescord, Cole Littlewood, William Kuhn, Kevin Vaudrien, Nancy Muni Ruot, Daniel Comeau, Rocky Smith, Ryan Currier, Scott Beck
Mini Stocks: Gordon Farnum, Raymond King, Kevin Cormier, Louie Maher, Michael Douglas, Ethan Marsh, Jeff Asselin, Kevin McKnight, William Chaffee, Trevor Carey, Patrick Houle, Jake Puchalski, Matthew Lambert, Adam Sprague, Tim LeBlanc, Josh Wright, Kevin Clayton

Young Guns: Jake Bosse, Edward Petruskevicius, Jeffrey Moffat Jr, Leilei Daniels, Aaliyah Tacy

Six Shooters: Dustin Thibodeau, Travis Hollins, Brandon Mailhot, Chris Hadley, Micheal Yeaton, Bucky Thibodeau, Maxwell Chaput, Jeremy Blood, Chooch Snidel, Paul Colburn, John Thibodeau

Pure Stocks: Chris Davis, Joseph Jarvis, JD Stockwell, Jason LeRay, David Stone Jr, Kodi Sabins, Jake Bosse, Ken LaFont, Cory Lofland, Damien Houle, James Zellman Sr, Brittany Patnode, Brianna Patnode, Ryan Lawliss, James Zellman, Kyle Robinson Newell, Nicholas Houle, Chris Higbee, Carter Chamberlin, William Graham

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

Rick Fortuna, 63

Died: May 9, 2021

Celebration of Life 2 p.m.

May 22 at Holland Rod &

Gun Club

Charles Robert Hitchcock, 85

Died: May 13, 2021

Funeral Mass 10 a.m.

May 29 at

St. Christopher's Church, Broomfield

John M. Pikul, 63

Died: May 1, 2021

Memorial Service is Private

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

O B I T U A R I E S

Richard Charles Fortuna, 63

Richard "Rick" Charles Fortuna, known by most as Rambo entered into eternal rest Sunday May 9, 2021, at UMass Memorial Hospital after a brief and courageous battle with an aggressive form of cancer. He was 63.

Born on August 29, 1957 in Springfield, he was the son of the late Augustina Fortuna.

An avid, adventurous outdoorsman, he loved fishing, ice fishing, hunting, and was known as one of the best taxidermists in Massachusetts. One of his favorite places was Cape Cod. Rick had a passion for woodworking with an especially creative talent for hand carving and creating the most beautiful pieces. As an independent contractor, Rick

began building houses in the 1970s, also building stonewalls, which will remain as his signature. A true jack of all trades, he additionally worked as a tree climber.

Rick leaves behind his soulmate, love of his life, and best friend of 30 years Brenda Moore of Holland and their doggie Munchie; mother-in-law Isabelle Moore; beloved daughter Michelle Singh (Karan) of Windsor Locks Conn.; step daughter Tiffany Doherty (Kelan) of Rutland; brothers David Fortuna (Denise) of Brimfield and Salvador Fortuna of Holiday,



Fla.; nephew Timothy Fortuna of Holland; nieces Tammy Fortuna of Brookfield and Kelly Martin of Wales. His loving family also includes eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren and several great nieces and great nephews.

Rick also leaves behind his best friend Courtney Grimes and his wife Shelia of Sturbridge.

Services will be private at the request of the family. Family and Friends are invited to a Celebration of Life to be held on May 22 at 2 p.m. in Holland Rod and Gun Club, Holland.

Charles Robert "Bob" Hitchcock, 85

BRIMFIELD — Charles Robert "Bob" Hitchcock, 85, died May 13, 2021, at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

He leaves his wife of nearly 60 years, Judith (Caron) Hitchcock. They were married Sept. 2, 1961.

He also leaves two sons, Robert Hitchcock of Charlton, Jonathan Hitchcock of Brimfield, and a daughter Mary Jane Gaumond of Warren; three grandchildren, Marcel Gaumond of Warren, Macey Gaumond of W. Brookfield, G. Beck Gaumond of W. Brookfield, and a brother, David Hitchcock, of Spring Hills, Fla. He was predeceased by his grandson Charles "Chas" Hitchcock who died in 2015, and a sister Joyce Jacobs.

Bob was born in Stafford Springs, Conn., son of Harold

and Helena (Walsh) Hitchcock, and lived most of his life in Brimfield.

Bob was a member of St. Christopher's Church, and was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving during the Korean Conflict. Bob served for many years as a Cemetery Commissioner for the Town of Brimfield. He worked for many years in the construction business, and later retired from the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric in Ludlow.

He was actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America for many years, and for many years with the Brimfield Memorial Day Parade.

The funeral Mass will be



held at 10 a.m., on Saturday, May 29, at St. Christopher's Church, Route 20, Brimfield. A calling hour will be held in the church prior to the mass from 9-10A a.m. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Brimfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hitchcock Free Academy, P. O. Box 155, Brimfield, MA 01010, or the Town of Brimfield - Memorial Day Fund- PO Box 30, Brimfield, MA 01010.

Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, is directing the arrangements. Visit sansoucyfuneral.com.

John M. Pikul, May 29, 1957-May 1, 2021

John M. Pikul, 63, of 18 America Street in Chicopee went to his final resting place, May 1, 2021.

John was born May 29, 1957, the fifth child and first son of predeceased parents Rita and George Pikul. Also, the brother of predeceased sister, Amy. John spent all of his childhood years enjoying the country lifestyle of Lake Thompson, Palmer. He loved the outdoors, swimming, biking, and some fishing. He was also a proud neighborhood, paperboy and had the unfortunate accident of being hit by a car on his bike, while delivering papers, but that didn't stop him.

John graduated from Palmer High School, following with

a brief stint in the Marines. He returned home to Springfield, where he married Adrienne "Teez" Reed and was a great father to stepson, Jayum and son Joshua Pikul.

Over his lifetime, John developed a love for Native American history and their culture, adorning his home with pictures, symbols, books and more of native American beauty. He inherited this loving interest from his Dad, George.

John leave's his wife Adrienne Reed, son Joshua Pikul, sisters, Christine Ennis, of Arizona, Marcia Nadeau, of Warren, Ani-



ta Pikul of Ware, Carolyn Bleau, of South Carolina; Catherine Poulin of Wilbraham, and brother Charles Pikul, of Palmer. He also leaves many grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, and uncles, including his uncle and Father's brother Felix of Florida.

The family will hold a private memorial service. Memorial contributions can be made to the Shriners Hospital of Springfield and the American Indian College Fund.

Leading a healthy lifestyle can help prevent stroke

Good nutrition and exercise are key

SPRINGFIELD — The good news is that stroke — every year more than 795,000 Americans suffer an often-debilitating stroke — can be prevented by living a healthy lifestyle.

A stroke, sometimes called a brain attack, occurs when a blood clot blocks blood supply to part of the brain or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts. When the flow of blood is blocked, brain cells start to die within minutes because they can't get oxygen. This causes a stroke, which can result in lasting brain damage, long-term disability, or even death.

Among the healthy choices you can make to decrease your risk of stroke, which increases with age, is to eat a healthy diet.

"The results of a new study in the journal "Neurology" recommend stocking up on plant-based foods if you are looking to reduce stroke risk while also improving your cardiovascular health," said Dr. Sharjeel Panjwani, of the Department of Neurology at Baystate Medical Center.

According to the study co-author, Megu Baden, PhD, in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the benefits of these foods have been highlighted in other studies showing reduced risk of diabetes, some cancers, and cardiovascular disease, but this is one of the first to link this kind of diet to stroke prevention.

Among a long list of dark green leafy vegetables include beet greens, chard, Chinese cabbage, watercress, collard greens, kale, spinach, leaf lettuce, chicory, and romaine lettuce.

"Dark green veggies are low in calories, carbohydrates, sodium and cholesterol, but very rich in fiber. These nutrient-packed greens contain many vitamins and minerals, including iron, zinc, calcium, potassium, magnesium and vitamins A, K, C, E, and many of the B vitamins. Eating a diet rich in greens, as

part of an overall healthy diet, may reduce risk for many diseases, including stroke," said Donna Martin, RD, clinical dietitian III, Food and Nutrition Services, Baystate Health.

She also noted diets high in saturated fats and trans fats have been linked to stroke and related conditions, however, not all fat should be avoided and consuming some unsaturated fat from avocados, liquid olive and canola oil, nuts, and salmon is usually regarded as a healthy choice.

"The fats to limit are definitely the saturated and trans fats. The saturated fats are mainly found in foods that come from high fat meats and whole-fat dairy products, but they can also be found in fried foods and baked goods. Trans fats are produced when liquid oils are transformed into solid fats during food processing. In order to avoid trans fats, read food labels to determine the amount of trans fat in products, such as commercially baked cookies, crackers, pies and fried foods. Both saturated and trans fats can increase our LDL, the 'bad' cholesterol levels in our blood," said Martin.

Another lifestyle choice is to control your high blood pressure which is the number one controllable risk factor for stroke. Blood pressure is the pressure of blood pushing against the walls of your arteries, and high blood pressure, which nearly half of all Americans have, is when the force of blood is consistently too high damaging your arteries and organs and over time increasing your likelihood of stroke, noted Panjwani.

Foods high in salt (sodium) can raise your blood pressure. Most of the sodium Americans eat comes from packaged, processed, store-bought and restaurant foods.

"To decrease intake of salt, read food labels of processed foods or snacks and select lower sodium varieties. Be mindful that regular sauces, such as soy, barbecue, teriyaki, and ketchup are very high in sodium. Experiment with sodium-free herbs and spices rather than using salt or salt-blends and other high sodium seasonings. When dining out, request that salt not be

added to your foods and request that any dressings/sauces be served on the side," said Martin.

"Once again, your food choices and overeating leading to obesity can have a big impact on your blood pressure," she added.

Obesity is a disease that affects 34% of adults age 20 and over. Excess body fat can lead to inflammation, which results in poor blood flow and potential blockages — two major causes of stroke.

"Usually consuming a generally healthy diet, rich in lean protein choices, whole grains, vegetables, fruits, and low-fat dairy products helps to provide our bodies the nutrients that are needed. However, when we consume excessive portions of any food, especially calorie-dense foods such as fried foods, sweetened beverages, desserts, candy, and baked goods, weight gain is likely," said Martin.

To prevent obesity, the Baystate dietitian noted mindful eating is important as well as engaging in regular physical activity.

"Try to find exercises that you enjoy doing to increase the likelihood that you will continue this healthy behavior. Many people report lack of time as a reason not to exercise, however, you can incorporate simple ways to increase activity such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator, parking further away, or walking or riding a bicycle to the store. Also, be aware of the amount of time that you are sitting daily and make an effort to move at least a few minutes each hour, even when you are unable to get in a full workout," said Martin.

Smoking and drinking too much alcohol can also raise your blood pressure putting you at greater risk for a stroke.

"If you smoke, stop. There are many ways that we can help you with this goal. And when drinking, it should be in moderation as chronic alcoholism and binge drinking can increase the risk of both ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke," said Panjwani.

For more information on stroke, visit baystatehealth.org/stroke.

Baystate: Don't let J&J pause sway vaccine confidence

SPRINGFIELD — There is some good news, despite the setback from the pausing of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine that may increase hesitancy among some Americans to get vaccinated.

"Quick actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food & Drug Administration in pausing the vaccine to investigate the formation of rare blood clots in several women after getting the vaccine shows the nation's safety monitoring system is working," said Dr. Armando Paez, chief of the Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Health.

However, while figures from the CDC indicated that providers were administering nearly 3.4 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine per day on average, a report on April 20 noted only 1.8 million vaccinations were given, the lowest one-day number in two weeks. And about 1 in 4 Americans say they might decline vaccination, with hesitancy greatest among Black Americans and Latinx, two populations who have been hit the hardest by the coronavirus.

Among the many reasons cited by those hesitant to get vaccinated are worries over possible side effects, concerns over safety, questions about how effective they are, fear the vaccine will give them COVID-19, and lack of trust in the government.

Paez agrees with other public health officials around the country who have concerns that the pause on Johnson & Johnson may heighten vaccine hesitancy and fuel conspiracy theorists and says "only time will tell."

"Don't let worries over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine deter you from getting vaccinated to protect yourself, loved ones around you, and the community. At this time over 79 million or 24 percent of our population has been vaccinated, with 40 percent receiving at least one dose. And we know it to be true that

the vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe COVID-19 and death," Paez said. "Don't put the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in the same category as Johnson & Johnson. At this time, there are no concerns of blood clots associated with those vaccines which are actually different from Johnson & Johnson," he added.

He noted the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use a new technique to prime the body to fight off COVID-19 called messenger RNA, or mRNA, packaged in fatty particles that provide instructions to produce the spike protein to stimulate immunity. This differs from Johnson & Johnson vaccine that relies on a known technique already used in some vaccines involving non-replicating viral vectors like adenovirus to deliver the instructions.

"We cannot let anything deter us from the important path we are on to vaccinate all Americans in order to reach the level of herd immunity we need to end the pandemic," said Paez.

Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they have already had the disease or they have been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for a

virus to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, such as newborns.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the chief medical adviser to the president, estimates that 75-80 percent of the American population needs to be vaccinated before the country reaches herd immunity. However, the circulating variants that are more transmissible push the threshold higher and some variants are also resistant to vaccines.

"We are in the race of our lifetime to vaccinate as many people as possible so as to reduce the spread of the virus and decrease the chances of forming variants," Paez said.

The CDC states that there is no single tool that is going to stop the pandemic. As suggested on their website: "Your best protection from COVID-19 will be a combination of getting a COVID-19 vaccine, wearing a mask, continuing to social distance, avoiding crowds, poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands often."

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

Everyone invited to Aquacise class

The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, has brought back Aquacise for residents of Hampden County communities, including Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales. Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength.

To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails.

The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

Tri-Parish Community Church plant, bake, tag and craft sale

HARDWICK — Tri-Parish Community Church annual plant, bake, tag, and craft sale will be held June 5 and 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the Common. There will be flowering and vegetable plants, homemade baked goods, home-crafted goods and tag sale treasures. Plants include perennials from Inishowen Farm and Chicken Feather Farm along with the ever-popular "home grown lovelies," and vegetable plants from Stillman's Farm. This year the sale is also offering baked potatoes with a choice of fixings on Saturday. There will be a brief prayer service Sunday at 9:45 a.m. on the Hardwick Common in lieu of the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service at the Gilbertville Trinitarian Congregational Church. This is a rain or shine event.

visit us at
journalregister.turley.com

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our
20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm

Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Public notices

Town of Monson Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance M.G.L. Chapter 40A § 11 the Monson Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing, **Thursday May 27, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**, remotely, on the application of Catherine Pienkos, Care for Animals, LLC for a Special Permit for variance from the requirements of Section 3.1, Dimensional & Density Regulations, of the Monson Zoning Bylaws. The applicant seeks to operate Monson Small Animal Clinic, a veterinary practice at the property located at 2 Main St 113, Lot 58, and is zoned General Commercial.

Zoom Information:

Login:
https://zoom.us/j/98804028349?pwd=M2JV5URQWVRNNm1xUlptBTFZEZmZnZz09Dial: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 988 0402 8349

Password: 950520
5/13, 5/20/21

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 11 Saint John Street, Palmer, MA 01069

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Scott A. Beauvais and Aimee L. Beauvais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Homeland Mortgage Company, and now held by U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series 2015A+, said mortgage dated December 2, 2004 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14686, Page 235, and affected by the Judgment recorded May 12, 2015 in Book 20699 at Page 312 of the Hampden County Registry of Deeds; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Homeland Mortgage Company to CitiMortgage, Inc. by assignment dated September 25, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 18018, Page 356; said mortgage was assigned from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A by assignment dated August 16, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 21814, Page 315; said mortgage was assigned from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee for Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A to Granite Investment Group by assignment dated June 19, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 21940, Page 535; said mortgage was assigned from Granite Investment Group to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series 2015A+ by assignment dated October 16, 2017 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 21940, Page 581; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **June 11, 2021 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

LOT A

A certain lot or parcel of land located on the easterly side of St. John Street in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, said lot or parcel being known and designated as lot A as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Thorndike, Palmer, Mass. Surveyed for John Lizak, dated September 10, 1985", recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 231, Page 27.

Tax parcel ID: 2719
The description of the property contained in the mortgage as affected by the judgment recorded in Book 20699 at Page 312 of the Hampden County Registry of Deeds shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 9, 2003 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13181, Page 404.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for U.S. Bank

a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Thorndike, Palmer, Mass. Surveyed for John Lizak, dated September 10, 1985", recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 231, Page 27, said lot or parcel being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the easterly sideline of St. John Street, Thence running along a curve to the right along an old fence at the easterly sideline of St. John Street, 201 feet, more or less, to an iron pin;

Thence turning and running s. 70° 13' 30" e., 148.10 feet along lot B as shown on said plan to an iron pin; Thence turning and running s. 12° 50' 30" w., 200.20 feet along last-named land to an iron pin;

Thence turning and running n. 70° 13' 30" w., 150.00 feet along parcel 1 as shown on said plan to an iron pin, the point of beginning.

Being the same Property which Vernon S. Keith and Barbara A. Keith granted and conveyed unto Scott A. Beauvais and Aimee L. Beauvais, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated May 9, 2003 and recorded May 12, 2003 in the recorder's office of Hampden County, MA in Book 13181 Page 404 Document 94837.

PARCEL 1

A certain lot or parcel of land located on the easterly side of St. John Street in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, said lot or parcel being known and designated as Parcel 1, as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Thorndike, Palmer, Mass. Surveyed for John Lizak, dated September 10, 1985", recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 231, Page 27.

PARCEL 3

A certain lot or parcel of land located on the easterly side of St. John Street in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, said lot or parcel being known and designated as Parcel 3 as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Thorndike, Palmer, Mass. Surveyed for John Lizak, dated September 10, 1985", recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 231, Page 27.

Total area containing 36,787 square feet of land, more or less, according to said plan.

Subject to utility easement as shown on said Plan.

Tax parcel ID: 2719
The description of the property contained in the mortgage as affected by the judgment recorded in Book 20699 at Page 312 of the Hampden County Registry of Deeds shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 9, 2003 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13181, Page 404.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for U.S. Bank

Trust, National Association, as Trustee of American Homeowner Preservation Trust Series 2015A+ Present Holder of the Mortgage
401-217-8701
05/13, 05/20, 05/27/2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises:
40 Bethany Road,
Monson, Massachusetts

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ronald S. Midura and Shirley A. Midura to Chevy Chase Bank F.S.B. and now held by Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A, said mortgage dated December 19, 2003, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, in Book 13905 at Page 450, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 9, 2019, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 22701 at Page 484, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **May 27, 2021, at 2:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in said Monson, Hampden County, situate on the westerly side of Bethany Road bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin in the westerly line of Bethany Road at land now or formerly of William T. Lewis and Emily Lewis, said pin being the northeast corner of the tract to be described, and running thence

WESTERLY: ALONG land now or formerly of William T. Lewis, et ux about 90 feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Marvin Lyon; thence **TURNING AND RUNNING**

SOUTHERLY: ALONG said Lyon land about 75 feet to an iron pin at other land now or formerly of said **WILLIAM T. LEWIS, ET UX;** thence **TURNING AND RUNNING**

EASTERLY: ALONG land now or formerly of said William T. Lewis, et ux about 90 feet to an iron pin in the westerly line of said Bethany Road; thence **TURNING AND RUNNING**

NORTHERLY: ALONG the westerly line of said Bethany Road about 75 feet to the **POINT OF BEGINNING.**

RESERVING the right of Esther M. Lewis to occupy, rent and improve the premises for her entire natural life as a Reserved Life Estate.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES conveyed to the grantor by deed dated February 18, 1981 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 5070, Page 133. Eva Brown died in Palmer, MA, February 24, 1995.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagors' Title see deed dated December 30, 1999, and recorded in Book 11056 at Page 462 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank

treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road,
Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB,
as trustee of
Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 17-16339
05/06, 05/13, 05/20/2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 45 Jim Ash Road, Palmer, MA 01069

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan J. Bryant to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., and now held by **The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for Registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-23**, said mortgage dated October 7, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 16260, Page 435, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. to The Bank of New York Mellon, f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for Registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2006-23 by assignment dated September 19, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 22861, Page 176; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on June 11, 2021 at 02:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in the Village of Bondsville, Town of Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, situated on the easterly side of Jim Ashe Road, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a pipe in the easterly side of Jim Ashe Road, said pipe marking the southwest corner of the premises herein described and the northwest corner of land now or formerly of William J. Webb, et ux; thence

NORTH 59 degrees 1' E, along land of said Webb, 247 feet to a pipe; thence

NORTH 33 degrees 44', 20" W. along land of said Webb, 200 feet to a pipe; thence

SOUTH 59 degrees 6' W. along land now or formerly of Sumner R. Chapin, et ux, 238.70 feet to a pipe on the easterly side of Jim Ashe Road; thence

SOUTH 31 degrees E, along the easterly side of Jim Ashe Road, 200 feet to the PLACE OF BEGINNING.

Containing approximately one and one-tenth acres.

Being the same premises conveyed to Susan J. Bryant by deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 10264, Page 74.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical

error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated April 23, 1998 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10264, Page 74.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as Trustee for Registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-23
Present Holder of the Mortgage
401-217-8701
05/13, 05/20, 05/27/2021

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:20 PM REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a **Request for a Determination of Applicability** to determine if the work associated with an 18x40 addition to an existing home at 221 Bumstead Rd Map 8, Parcel 5, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Property owner and applicant is John Cacula.

Login: https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SUJwR3lZbHAYZzdGTOZQeFlwRXVTZz09

Dial: 1.646.558.8656
Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169

Password: 878803
Submitted by:
Monson Conservation Commission

05/20/2021

TOWN OF PALMER TOWN MANAGER PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, acting by and through the Town Manager, invites sealed Bids for the proposed "Palmer WPCF Electrical Service and Pump Stations No. 4 and No. 5 Generator Replacements." Sealed Bids will be received at the Town Manager's Office at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 until **Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM** and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sealed bids must have outer envelope marked as "PWPCF Electrical Service and Pump Station Generator Replacements."

Sealed Bids from Subcontractors addressed as referenced above will be received by the be received at the Town Manager's Office at the Town Hall, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 until Wednesday May 26, 2021 at 2:00 PM

and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work: HVAC, Masonry

The work consists of:

PWPCF Electrical Service Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of 15kv-480V padmount transformer. The utility shall provide a new padmount and medium voltage cabling and connections. The removal and replacement of existing secondary main feeders from the padmount transformer to the secondary service. The removing and properly disposing of the existing secondary main switchboard and utility meter. The replacement of the switchboard, reconnection to the standby automatic transfer switch and all existing loads, equipment pad modifications and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

Pump Station No. 4 Generator Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of the existing Onan 50 kW back-up generator and appurtenances followed by furnishing and installing a new 50 kW capacity diesel back-up generator and appurtenances, new automatic transfer switch and controls, new day tank, new intake and exhaust louvers including masonry work to increase the louver size, and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

Pump Station No. 5 Generator Replacement: The removing and properly disposing of the existing Onan 60 kW back-up generator and appurtenances followed by furnishing and installing a new 60 kW capacity diesel back-up generator and appurtenances, new automatic transfer switch and controls, new day tank, new intake and exhaust louvers including masonry work to increase the louver size, and all appurtenances as required by the contract drawings and specifications.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein.

Prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "Electrical" and they shall have a "Prime" certification. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidders shall be for the category of work for which they are submitting a Bid.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents.

uments for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the WPCF (1 Norbell Street, Three Rivers, MA 01080), Massachusetts on Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

**TOWN OF PALMER,
MASSACHUSETTS**
05/20/2021

BRIMFIELD PLANNING BOARD

The Brimfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **June 2, 2021 at 7:30 PM** in the Town Hall (21 Main Street) regarding the town meeting articles regarding proposed zoning by-law changes. The proposed zoning by-law changes will affect the following sections:

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 7.2, Projects Requiring Site Plan Approval

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 7.4, Required Site Plan Contents

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 12, Adult Use Marijuana Establishment; sections 12.3 and 12.4.5

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 3, District Use Regulations; section 3.5,5.3

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 6, Sign Regulations

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw Section 4, Density Regulations, adding Estate Lots

To see if the Town will vote to amend Zoning Bylaw-Business District, adding specific parcel to the Business District exclusively for the construction of a Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation.

For the complete narrative of this proposed changes please visit <http://www.brimfieldma.org>, visit the Town Hall Annex at 23 Main Street or contact the Planning Board at:

planning@brimfieldma.org.
05/13, 05/20/2021

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0883EA
Estate of:
Frances J. Desmarais
Date of Death: 11/27/2019**

**CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Eileen Sullivan-Boss of West Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete

Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/31/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 28, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/20/2021

"Notice of License Application" pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection-Waterways Program

Waterways License Application Transmittal Number X286002

Applicant: Forest Lake Properties, LLC

NOTIFICATION DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2021

Public notice is hereby given of the Chapter 91 Waterways License Application by Forest Lake Properties, LLC to construct and maintain Private Recreational Dock and Swimming Area at River Street, also known as Assessor's Map 36 and 86, Lots 31, 1, and 1, respectively in the municipality of Palmer, in and over the waters of Forest Lake, a Commonwealth-designated Great Pond. The proposed project has been determined to be water-dependent.

The Department may conduct a public hearing in order to receive information to be used in its decision on whether to grant a Waterways License pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91.

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways License Application received by close-of-business on **Friday, June 18, 2021**, the Public Comments Deadline. Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c).

Additional information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Waterways Program at 413-755-2138. Project plans and documents for this application are on file with the Waterways Program for public viewing, by appointment only, at the address below.

Written comments must be addressed to:

David Cameron, Chief
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Western Region-Waterways Program

436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103
david.cameron@mass.gov
05/20/2021

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. REMOTELY.** Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the boundaries of a resource area depicted on a plan are accurately delineated for herbicide treatment in the right-of-ways in Monson. Applicant is New England Central Railroad Company.

Login: <https://zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SUJwR3lZbHAYZzdGT0ZQeFlwRXVTZz09>

Dial: 1.646.558.8656

Meeting ID: 934 6151 7169

Password: 878803

Submitted by:

Monson Conservation Commission
05/20/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0855EA
Estate of:**

**Richard E. Hoyt, Sr.
Date of Death:
March 17, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Russell A Hoyt** of Billerica, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Russell A Hoyt of Billerica, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
5/20/2021

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of MA Gen. Laws, Chap. 255, Sec. 39A, the following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage charges due:

GMC
VIN:1GKDT13S582218726
Kahmad Wilson 4 Shearer ST
Palmer, MA; DODGE
VIN:1D4GP24353B191906
Heather Caroll 129 Beacon DR
Palmer, MA; CHEVY
VIN:1G1ZT58N68F117529
Lisa Burke 74 Main ST
Apt B Monson, MA; JEEP
VIN:1J4GZ58SOWC185062
Quan Jennings 299 Park ST
#B3 Bristol, CT; HONDA
VIN:3HGCG66572G707207
Michael Hogan Jr 38 Bourne ST
Three Rivers, MA; CHEVY
VIN:1G1AT58H397153665
Kenneth Labonte P.O. Box 63
Bondsville, MA; SUBARU
VIN:JF1SF635X2H720482
Shamiran Hawil 117 Davidson ST
Springfield, MA; CHEVY
VIN:1GNDT13S822236650
Verinilda Ramirez 33 Berkeley ST
Springfield MA; CHEVY
VIN:1G1AD5F53A7213907
Beverly Boulette 70 Beacon DR
Palmer, MA. This auction is to take place on **May 21, 2021, 10:00 A.M.** at LaBontes & Son LLC, 241 Wilbraham St., Palmer, MA 01069.
05/06, 05/13, 05/20/2021

**LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE**
By virtue of and in exe-

cution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David D. Perkins and Sherry R. Perkins to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, acting solely as a nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp., dated April 25, 2008 and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 17270, Page 496 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated November 27, 2012, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 19868, Page 517, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated June 8, 2016, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21240, Page 411, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated January 12, 2018, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 22362, Page 89 of which mortgage Selene Finance LP is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., its successors and assigns to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP dated April 19, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 19221, Page 577, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns to Selene Finance LP dated April 15, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 20681, Page 195, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP to Selene Finance LP dated May 16, 2017 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21686, Page 600, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 21 Wilbraham Road, Monson, MA 01057 will be sold at a Public Auction at **12:00 PM on June 15, 2021**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe in the Northerly line of the Monson Wilbraham Road at its intersection with the Westerly line of the road leading to the house of one Hasenjager, and running thence

N. 4" 30' W. on line of said road leading to Hasenjager's 104 feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of Alfred D. Maynard et ux, thence

West 109.5 feet to an iron pipe; thence

Southeasterly 136.33 feet to an iron pipe in the Northerly line of said Monson-Wilbraham Road; thence

N. 70° 15' E. on said Wilbraham Road 100 feet to the place of beginning.
Subject to all easements, rights of way, and other restrictions of record in force an applicable.

For title, see deed to David D. Perkins and Sherry R. Perkins recorded with said Deeds in Book/Volume 10452, Page 596.

Property Address:
21 Wilbraham Road
Monson, MA 01057

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 10452, Page 596.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign

written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Selene Finance LP
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Perkins, David D.,
20-036603
05/20, 05/27, 06/03/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0840EA
Estate of:**

**Lynn Angela Zorra
Date of Death: 01/29/2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christopher Zorra** of Seekonk, MA,

Christopher Zorra of Seekonk, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
05/20/2021

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER POLICE DEPT.

The Palmer Police Department responded to 381 calls and made five arrests or summons for arrests May 11-18. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Tuesday, May 11
Devon Scott Pelletier, 27, of 278

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 15 calls May 11-17:

On Tuesday, May 11, at 9:12 p.m., the department responded to a trash fire on Flynt Street. The department returned to service at 9:42 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 12, at 1:36 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with an injury on Shearer Street. The department returned to service at 2:16 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 12, at 5:52 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance, on Pine Street. The department returned to service at 6:14 p.m.

On Thursday, May 13, at 11:40 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 12:28 p.m.

On Thursday, May 13, at 3:12 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with a fluid spill on Thorn-dike Street. The department returned to service at 3:36 p.m.

On Friday, May 14, 10:44 a.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Maple Street. The department returned to service at 11:11 a.m.

On Friday, May 14, at 11:39 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Geraldine Street. The department returned to service at 12:31

Burlingame St., Three Rivers, was arrested at 6:24 p.m., on Burlingame Street in Three Rivers, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle and improper use of a mobile phone.

John Thomas Woloschuk, 46, of 180 Stafford Rd., Monson, was arrested at 9:40 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor (second offense); negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation.

p.m.

On Friday, May 14, at 1:03 p.m., the department responded to a gas leak on Vicardav Avenue. The department returned to service at 1:25 p.m.

On Friday, May 14, at 3:16 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting public service, on River Street. The department returned to service at 3:42 p.m.

On Friday, May 14, at 5:22 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Country Lane. The department returned to service at 5:41 p.m.

On Sunday, May 16, 6:55 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 7:37 a.m.

On Sunday, May 16, at 3:12 p.m., the department responded to ring removal on School Street. The department returned to service at 3:24 p.m.

On Sunday, May 16, at 8:51 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 9:13 p.m.

On Monday, May 17, at 10:22 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance, on Beacon Street. The department returned to service at 10:55 a.m.

On Monday, May 17, at 11:49 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with an injury on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 12:31 p.m.

MONSON POLICE DEPT.

The Monson Police Department made two arrests or summons for arrests May 9 -15. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, May 9

Antonio Gomes Goncalves, 43, of 39 Parkview St., Ludlow, was arrested at 9:09 p.m., on charges of distributing a Class B drug; possession to distribute a Class B drug and conspiracy to violate a drug law.

turned to service at 2:05 p.m.

On Monday, May 17, at 11:00 a.m., the department responded to an EMS incident on Maple Street. The department returned to service at 11:49 a.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to two calls May 11-17:

On Saturday, May 15, at 9:08 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting medical assistance, on Main St. The department returned to service at 9:28 a.m.

On Saturday, May 15, at 3:53 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 4:25 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to two fire calls and 18 EMS calls May 10-16:

On Friday, May 14, at 7:34 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on High Street. The department returned to service at 7:56 a.m.

On Sunday, May 16, at 5:28 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Park Road. The department returned to service at 6:14 p.m.

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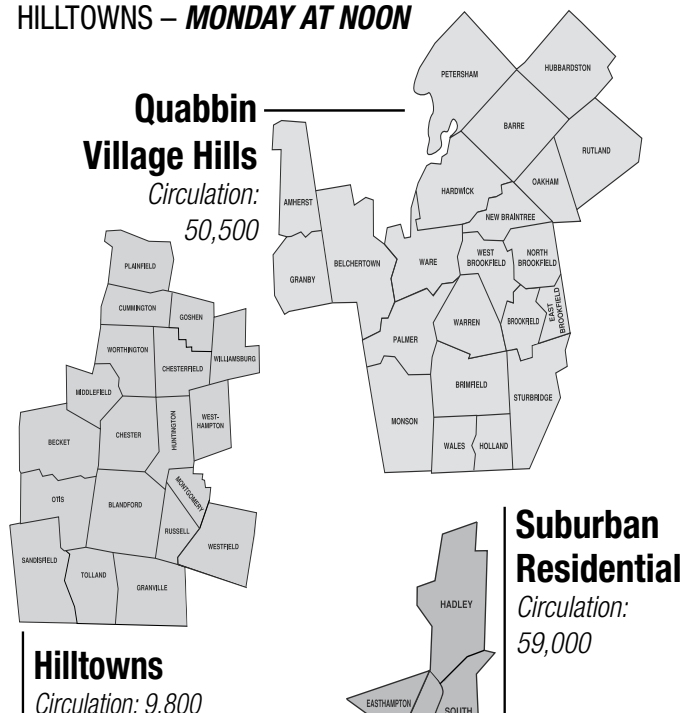
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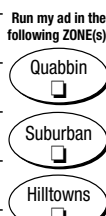
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

PLANT SALE: This fundraiser for Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road Brimfield, will be held 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 22. Annuals, perennials, vegetable plants, hanging baskets and selected plants from local gardeners.

NEW POLITICAL COMMITTEE: A new Brimfield Democratic Town Committee is being formed as a big tent community activist group. All Brimfield Progressives are welcome – registered Independents can join as non-voting members. A networking party is being held 2 p.m. Sunday, May 23. This is an opportunity for town Progressives to get acquainted with each other. Those who don't wish to join the committee can sign up for the email list, so they can be kept informed of activities. For more information, contact one of the Co-Chairs - Paul Adams (pdadams74@charter.net) or Maria Thomson (mthomson@charter.net). For more information, contact one of the Co-Chairs - Paul Adams (pdadams74@charter.net) and Maria Thomson (mthomson@charter.net).

SOON

CANDIDATES FORUM: The Monson Democratic Town Committee 54th Annual Candidates' Night Event will take place 4-7 p.m. Saturday, June 5, at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Rd., Monson. All candidates on the ballot for Monson's June 8 town election are invited to speak. This event is an opportunity for candidates to connect with Monson voters. A light meal (burgers, hot dogs and chips) will be served for \$15 per ticket. To purchase tickets, text or call Patty Smith at 413-284-7801 or Sarah Pedder at 774-707-5563 or email Keith Valley at rkeithvalley@yahoo.com. All proceeds benefit the Monson Democratic Town Committee Scholarship Fund.

TRASH TO TREASURE: – This is the 11th annual town-wide tag sale at Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield. Rain or shine: Saturday, June 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Register your sale at hitchcockacademy.org/events

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Hitchcock Free Academy's Inaugural Golf Tournament: Fore a Good Cause. Saturday, June 26, at 7:30 a.m. at Heritage Country Club in Charlton. To register or sponsor a team, go to hitchcockacademy.org.

AT THE HOLLAND LIBRARY

COMING THIS SUMMER: Tails and Tales Children's Summer Reading Program. Follow the Library on Facebook. Join the Community Book Club: The book club will meet online via Zoom. Copies of the monthly book selection, in a variety of formats, are available for curbside checkout at the library. Contact the Holland Community Center for more information by calling them at 413-245-3163. Like them on Facebook for updates. To Join the Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 736 9214 3025; Passcode: p95795.

ONGOING

EVERYONE INVITED TO AQUACISE: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, offer Aquacise for residents of Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales.

Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails. The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

PALMER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORCE: Consists of business owners, community members, survivors and allies. The Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force promotes education and awareness in the community while empowering, educating and providing resources to those who have been affected by domestic violence and/or intimate partner violence in Palmer or those who have found safety in Palmer. For help and meeting information, email palmerdvtf@gmail.com. All contact is confidential.

MUSIC LESSONS, YOGA AND MORE: Just because days are short, and the thermometer reads cold doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Hitchcock Academy constantly works with instructors to offer options to its community members. Look for upcoming classes in yoga, tai chi, meditation, and fencing. Hitchcock Academy follows all current COVID guidelines for cleaning and social distancing and anyone using the facility must wear a mask.

All information regarding current class offerings, events, and registration are available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM: The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has found a way to get food to families that need it. The Farmers to Families program, set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is part of a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that help people all over the nation and has a site in Springfield open to all residents. The program will supply food kits with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products that distributes package into family-sized boxes. You can register for your food kit at mmsfi.org. On the website choose "Springfield, Ma" as your pick up site and sign-up. Register for one week or all four with easy one time registration. Food kit includes fresh dairy, protein, and produce totaling 30+ pounds of food. Military families are encouraged to sign-up but registration is open to the public.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish

of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-9952 for more information. While currently closed, we are anticipating reopening later this year.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY: Want to learn more about local history? The Elbow Plantation Historical Society is available for research and other information. They can be reached at elbow.plantation@gmail.com. Send them your questions and comments and leave your preferred contact information and they will respond asap.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three

Rivers and Thorndike.

SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE: Residents of Palmer, Thorndike, Bondsville and Three Rivers seeking emergency help with fuel assistance, utility payments/shut off, food, and clothing can contact the Salvation Army in Canton, MA at 339-502-5900. This is the office located in Canton, MA. If eligible, staff there will be able to address your concerns and provide assistance until the local Palmer office is once again staffed by a volunteer outreach coordinator.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-250-8548.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month over Zoom. Contact Chair Karen Nothe-Valley at 413-846-3041 or karen_monsondems@yahoo.com.

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Business

Antiques show back after pandemic hiatus



By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — It's been two years since Brimfield Antique Flea Markets, a local staple, last drew crowds to the route 20 corridor. Brimfield Auction Acres, owned by Kate and Rusty Corriveau, broke the seal on a truncated version of the shows under pandemic restrictions.

That show, and all the other fields on the circuit, will be back in July — this time with no restrictions if all goes according to plan. Last week's opening round, with more than 300 dealers, food trucks, and near-perfect weather, drew enthusiastic crowds each day.

"It was a terrific trifecta — dealers with a surplus of amazing merchandise, shoppers eager to get out, and show promoters whose purpose is to bring them together," Kate Corriveau said.

"The people were so cooperative on following guidelines and that made the extra work worth it. We're greatly looking forward to seeing them at the July show."

Local artisans have a new showcase for their work



Cheryl Moriarty is providing a chance for herself and local artisans to showcase their work at her new store, "Just A Little Craft Store."



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Just A Little Craft Store features an eclectic mix of local, handmade crafts.

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Around 41 artists and crafters are showcasing their handmade work at the recently opened "Just A Little Craft Store."

During the COVID-19 pandemic owner Cheryl Moriarty said she lost a lot of business as a crafter because there were no craft shows. After discovering the available room at the Schoolhouse Commons Business Center, which had all the shelving and stalls she needed, Moriarty said "this would be a great place," to attract artisans.

Through social media Moriarty and her daughter Melissa Storey contacted several crafters they know to get them to showcase some of their work at the store.

"We got a hold of the close network we had, had them come in and threw it onto social media," Moriarty said.

"I came into it saying, 'well if I could rent out have the spaces, it's a good way to start,' but we've done more than that."

Just A Little Craft Store provides a variety of crafts, ranging from Becky Quinn's Face Scrubbies, to Celia Melvin's Rebel Bath and Body products, which customers were happy to discover during last week's three-day opening. Moriarty also said Country Bank chose her craft store as business of the month.

Moriarty said with the level of support she has received since opening the craft store, she is looking forward to seeing what impact the store will have in the coming months.

"I just want people to be able to see what is being offered," Moriarty said. "These are local, handmade crafts. I want people to be able to come in if they're looking for a unique gift."

Storey, who volunteers and assists her mother with managing the store, is also happy to work with her.

"We've been crafting since I was a young girl," Moriarty said. "I'm always going to be there to support her. This is a dream of hers, so anything I could do to make it happen for her, I'll do."

Moriarty also receives support from her son Derek Wrann, who has some of his hand-carved wands featured in the store.

Store hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To contact Moriarty, call 413-478-1451 or 413-725-8464 or email Justalittlecraftstore@gmail.com. They also have a Facebook page. Just A Little Craft Store is located at 1085 Park St., Suite 103, Palmer.



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